Political woes drag peso down to 55.24 vs dollar

Story in Business, PAGE B1

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Skip 'tapa,' spare 'usa'

DI MATUTUPAD YAN... KAMING ASKAL NGA, E PINAPATULAN SILA PA!
OO NGA E!

By N. Bordadora

IF AUTHORITIES make a go of their latest crackdown on the illegal trade in wildlife, drinkers with a hankering for *tapang usa*, *adobong bayawak* and other "exotic" bar chow will have to stop indulging themselves.

SKIP/ A6

Dato does a Jude, uses Palace chopper

**By Carla P. Gomez
and Connie E. Fernandez**
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—*Et tu,* Dato?

The First Couple's youngest child made a "private" visit to this city on board a presidential chopper on Sunday, the culmination of the weeklong

DATO/ A6

Suspense rising on FPJ poll plans

Action star to consult NGOs, other supporters

**By Edwin O. Fernandez,
Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
and Christine O. Avendaño**

STRONG indicators now point to action king Fernando Poe Jr. running for president, although the opposition has deferred until after All Souls' Day its announcement on whether he will be its standard-bearer.

Poe had also postponed his announcement to next week because he wants to consult with non-government organizations and other groups clamoring for him to join the presidential race.

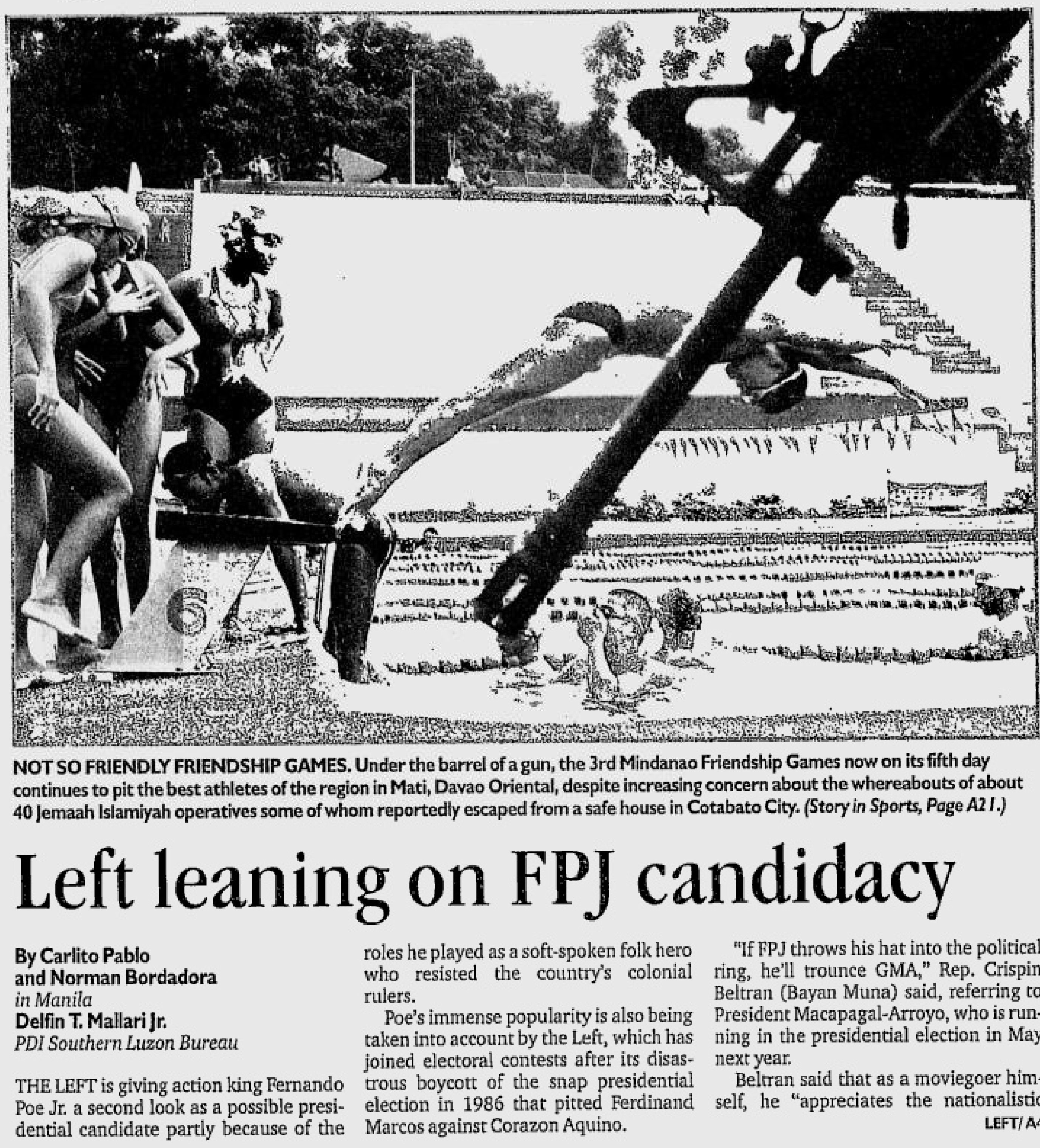
In Cotabato City, Poe's supporters said yesterday that the actor had already announced his decision to run last September.

Ariel San Diego, a senior member of the Fernando Poe Jr. for President Movement (FPJPM), said Poe personally made the announcement at a meeting with his supporters in Manila. He said he was present at the meeting but he did not specify when and where it was held.

The FPJ for President Movement (FPJPM) Pangasinan chapter will hold its first anniversary tomorrow at the Dagupan Astrodome, Levin Uy, coordinator of the FPJPM third district, said. Uy said simultaneous celebrations would be held in different parts of the country. The main event will be held in Metro Manila. The FPJ-PM has about 5,000 members in Pangasinan.

The opposition is pushing for a Fernando Poe Jr.-Loren Legarda tandem, which Legarda herself calls a "box-office hit."

SUSPENSE/ A4



EDWIN BACASMAS

NOT SO FRIENDLY FRIENDSHIP GAMES. Under the barrel of a gun, the 3rd Mindanao Friendship Games now on its fifth day continues to pit the best athletes of the region in Mati, Davao Oriental, despite increasing concern about the whereabouts of about 40 Jemaah Islamiyah operatives some of whom reportedly escaped from a safe house in Cotabato City. *(Story in Sports, Page A21.)*

Left leaning on FPJ candidacy

**By Carlito Pablo
and Norman Bordadora**
in Manila
Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE LEFT is giving action king Fernando Poe Jr. a second look as a possible presidential candidate partly because of the roles he played as a soft-spoken folk hero who resisted the country's colonial rulers.

Poe's immense popularity is also being taken into account by the Left, which has joined electoral contests after its disastrous boycott of the snap presidential election in 1986 that pitted Ferdinand Marcos against Corazon Aquino.

"If FPJ throws his hat into the political ring, he'll trounce GMA," Rep. Crispin Beltran (Bayan Muna) said, referring to President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is running in the presidential election in May next year.

Beltran said that as a moviegoer himself, he "appreciates the nationalistic

LEFT/ A4

The Firm files ₱100-M damage suit vs Fraport

**By Margaux Ortiz,
Alcuin Papa
and Philip C. Tubeza**

THE VILLARAZA and Angangco law office is seeking P100 million in damages from the German airport operator Fraport AG and two of Fraport's highest officials, who accused F. Arthur "Pancho" Villaraza, the private lawyer of President-Macapagal Arroyo, of demanding "several tens of millions of dollars" from the German firm.

In a complaint filed before the Makati Regional Trial Court yesterday, the plaintiffs, led by Villaraza, Raoul Angangco and seven other lawyers of the Villaraza law firm, said Fraport chair Wilhelm Bender and vice chair Manfred Scholch "acted with fault, malice and evident bad faith in their scheme to recoup investments jeopardized through their own fault and insidious machinations."

Fraport may face another suit from Gloria Tan-Climaco, former presidential

THE FIRM/ A8

Another award for Inquirer's 'Abadilla 5'

THE PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer received two awards from the Catholic Mass Media Awards the other night.

The INQUIRER won the CMMA for Best Investigative Reporting for the five-part special report "Abadilla 5: Story straight out of martial law pages" and Best Entertainment Column for Nestor Torre's "Viewfinder."

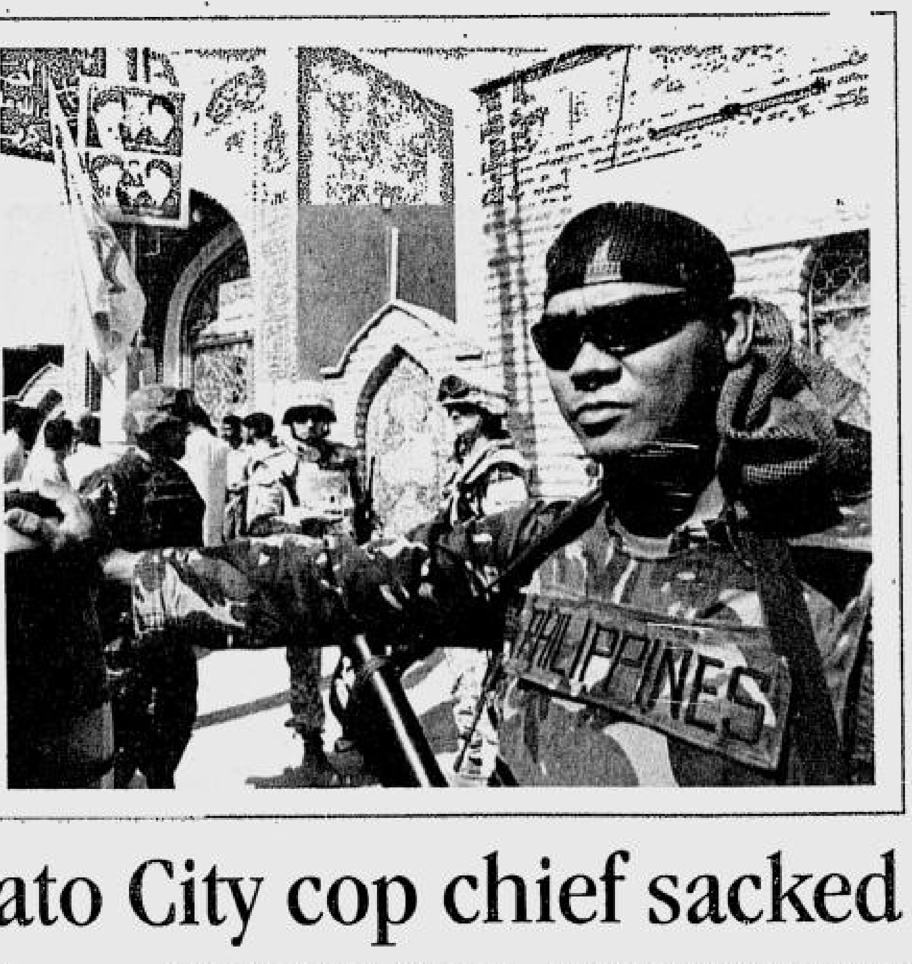
The special report was about five men in death row whose tortured confessions resulted in their doubtful conviction by a trial court. The series, which came out on Dec. 10-14, 2002, was written by Stella Ruth O. Gonzales, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Nancy Calauor-Carvajal.

INQUIRER managing editor Jose Ma. D. Nolasco was the project editor.

In June, the same report won the Soci-

ANOTHER/ A8

GLOBAL guardians of the uneasy peace in Iraq include Filipino soldiers who guard the entrance to a mosque in the holy city of Kerbala, where a radical Shiite leader held office until it was raided on Tuesday by coalition forces, who arrested at least 10 people.
REUTERS



Cotabato City cop chief sacked

**By Leila B. Salaverria
and TJ Burgonio**

FOR SAYING that the supposed terror manual and other evidence found in an apartment believed to be a Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) safe house had been planted, the police chief of Cotabato City has been sacked.

"He has committed a very grave offense," Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, chief of the Philippine National Police, yesterday told reporters at the Western Police District headquarters to explain the sacking of Senior Supt. Perako Makakua.

Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP information officer, said Makakua would be replaced by the second in command at the Cotabato City police.

Bataoil said police had monitored Makakua's statements on TV.

"He has to substantiate his claims. It's not right for him to make baseless statements," Bataoil said, adding that the Sunday raid on the apartment in Barangay Rosary Heights was conducted on the strength of a search warrant and the cooperation of barangay officials.

The apartment was raided by military and police operatives based on information supposedly provided by arrested JI member

COTABATO/ A8

Drunken Magdalo suspect falls

**By Leila B. Salaverria
and Christian V. Esguerra**

INDISCRIMINATE firing at a Manila neighborhood by a drunken man led to the arrest of a suspected supporter of the July 27 military mutiny and five of his companions as well as the seizure of a cache of high-powered firearms and ammunition on Tuesday night.

After police stormed a condominium unit at the LTS Building on Paz Street, Paco, the raiders also found a red Magdalo armband and flag similar to those used in the Oakwood mutiny by junior military officers.

"The recovered evidence is a positive indicator that he's part (of the mutiny)," Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. yesterday told reporters at the headquarters of the Western Police District.

Ebdane was referring to Leonardo Sen, a 30-year-old businessman and Marine reservist with the rank of captain.

Sen, who earlier identified himself as Arvin Samaniego, and five of his detained companions, including two women, were presented to the media by Ebdane and top PNP officials.

Arrested with Sen were Edward Reyes, 29, a businessman; Reynold Llanas, 27, a driver; Jay de Guzman, 38, caretaker of the condominium unit; Pia Ragonron, 18;

DRUNKEN/ A8

FOUND in a condo at the LTS building in Paz Street, Paco, Manila, are rifles and ammunition as well as a Magdalo flag. In photo are PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane and two suspected supporters (right) of the mutiny.

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/23/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

Impeach rap vs Davide et al. fails

By Carlito Pablo

THE IMPEACHMENT move in the House of Representatives against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and seven other Supreme Court justices has failed.

With an initial vote of 24 to 2, House legislators yesterday dismissed the complaint for being "insufficient in substance," thus upholding the high court's decision recognizing the legitimacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo's ascension to power through the second people power uprising in January 2001.

The complaint was filed by jailed ex-President Estrada who accused the SC justices of conspiring and participating in the Edsa II uprising to topple him from power.

Representatives Ronaldo Zamora (San Juan) and Didagen Dilangalen (Maguindanao), the two pro-Estrada representatives who endorsed the complaint, cast the lone two votes in its favor.

Zamora and Dilangalen, who belong to Estrada's Puwersa ng Masa party, walked out of the committee on justice hearing when it became clear that a shutout vote would happen.

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico, the third legislator to have endorsed the complaint, was absent.

Said SC chief clerk Luzviminda Puno, the wife of Justice Reynato Puno, one of the justices named in the impeach complaint: "The court has been vindicated."

Rep. Oscar Rodriguez of the ruling Lakas said that instead of being condemned, Davide and the seven justices should be commended for acting to "save the country from chaos and anarchy."

Kalinga Rep. Laurence Wacnang said that had the high court not decided to swear into office then vice president Ms Macapagal, the country would have "descended into chaos and disorder."

Isabela Rep. Giorgiddi Agabao said Congress cannot review or overturn a judicial decision without violating the principle of separation of powers.

For the complaint to be dismissed, a majority vote of the 35 out of the 69 members of the justice committee would be required.

The committee has until today to wrap up the voting.

Committee chair Rep. Marcelino Libanan said committee members who were not present would be allowed to vote by canvas or referendum.

It is unlikely that Zamora, Dilangalen and Suplico will be able to secure the votes needed.

In an interview, Dilangalen was already looking forward to a second impeachment complaint against Davide that he claimed was gaining ground in the House.

Some House members have accused Davide of allegedly misusing the Judiciary Development Fund, a complaint that the Chief Justice has assailed as an "unprecedented breach of the doctrine on the separation of powers."

Dilangalen said the second complaint would soon obtain the endorsement of one-third of the total House membership. This means that it would not have to go through the committee on justice anymore.

Under impeachment rules, an endorsement by one-third of House members will allow the automatic transmittal of a complaint to the Senate for trial.

Some 68 House members have reportedly signed the second complaint, only seven votes short of one-third of the 226-strong chamber.

DAVIDE

CAMERA-SHY and weak, rescued eagle recuperates at parks and wildlife center in Quezon City.

JOAN BONDOC

Starving eagle collapses on Palace ground

By Norman Bordadora

AN ADULT Brahminy Kite eagle, believed to have escaped from captivity, fell from one of the trees behind Malacañang yesterday, almost half-dead from exhaustion and starvation.

The bird was severely weakened by hunger, probably from not having eaten for days, said Dr. Steven Toledo of the Protected and Wildlife Bureau's Wildlife and Rescue Center.

"I checked its abdomen for signs that it had eaten anything recently. I didn't see any," Toledo said.

So weak was the eagle that the center has yet to establish its gender, height, weight, wingspan and other vital statistics.

"We suspect that it has been kept as a pet somewhere near the area. It escaped and was not able to eat for days," Toledo said.

The eagle didn't appear to be injured however.

Possession of the Brahminy Kite eagle is illegal under the country's environmental protection laws.

The white-crested and brown-winged bird of prey, locally known as *banog* and to be found in mangrove coasts mostly in Cebu, is considered endangered, that is, threatened with extinction. Their numbers are declining because of habitat loss and from being hunted and taken for pets.

The Presidential Security Group reported that the eagle had fallen off one of the trees at Malacañang's "back door" early yesterday, Toledo said.

It was taken to the Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City to be nursed back to health. It was immediately given first aid, re-hydration fluids and multi-vitamins.

Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun, who visited the eagle at the center yesterday, said it will be released to the wild once it has fully recovered.

Toledo does not believe it will be easy to trace the eagle's owner "unless somebody comes out and reports that so-and-so kept and subsequently lost this kind of bird."

Solons press implementation of MJ ouster

By Cynthia D. Balana

FIFTY-SIX legislators yesterday moved to implement a ruling of the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal removing Manila Rep. Mario Crespo, a.k.a. Mark Jimenez, from the roster of House members after Speaker Jose de Venecia failed to act on it.

A plenary session is to tackle today a resolution to implement the HRET ruling. Its principal authors are confident the resolution will be approved unanimously.

In March, the HRET declared in two resolutions that Jimenez was disqualified from representing the sixth district of Manila for vote-buying and violation of the one-year residency requirement when he ran for that office in the 2001 elections.

The tribunal, composed of three Supreme Court justices and six House Representative, also denied with finality Jimenez's motions for reconsideration.

The order became final and executory on June 5, 2003.

Some concerned House members have noted, however, that the chamber's Journal of Congress showed that Jimenez—who is on house detention in the United States while awaiting his sentence after pleading guilty to tax evasion and election finance fraud—was marked down as being on "official mission."

In a press conference, Rep. Douglas Cagas of Davao del Sur, a member of the HRET, said it was a "great injustice" for the House leadership not to have acted on the HRET decision.

Jimenez's lawyers have filed a motion with the Supreme Court to stay the HRET decision. They argued that the HRET had no jurisdiction over the case as the Commission on Elections had ruled that Jimenez had complied with the residency requirement.

Cagas argued however that in the absence of an injunction from the Supreme Court, the decisions of the tribunal become executory.

The HRET is the sole body charged with adjudicating issues concerning elections, returns and qualification of members of the lower house.

"The failure of the Supreme Court to issue a temporary restraining order gives Congress no reason to delay the implementation of the HRET order," Cagas said.

Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra questioned how Jimenez was allowed to continue to receive all the salaries, wages, allowances and benefits of his office, including the allotments to fund projects for the district.

Mitra said many House members were shocked to learn that the allotment for fiscal year 2003 for Jimenez's district had been partially released.

Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina, a HRET member, said he cannot understand why Jimenez continued to receive funds for projects of his district considering that he is in jail in the United States.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said the House leadership seemed to lack the "will to rid its ranks of erring members as in the case of Jimenez."

6 Pinoy seamen given up for dead

By Martin Marfil

SIX MISSING Filipino seamen of a tugboat which capsized off the coast of Nigeria are now presumed dead after two days of search and rescue operation failed to locate them.

The six Filipinos were crewmen of the anchor-handling tugboat MV Stevns Power which sank Monday morning.

"Our principal told us this morning that they have stopped their rescue operation ... only divers remained in the area for the recovery of bodies," said Renie Modelo, vice president for operations of the Crystal Shipping Inc., the agency which recruited the seamen.

The six missing seamen were identified as Chief Engineer Crispino Mateo, 48 years old; Second Engineer Herminio Mata, 49; Able Seaman Honorio Mabale, Jr., 48; Able Seaman Alfredo Terana, 55; Oiler Rod Delgado, 35; and Gerry Gelario, 48, the cook.

Initial reports said the 450-ton Stevns Power was trying to lay the anchors of a larger 20,000-ton cable-laying ship when a crewman from the smaller vessel was heard shouting into the radio for the larger vessel "to stop pulling."

Minutes later, the smaller ship Stevns capsized. But rescuers failed to recover bodies from the area.

Members of the victims' families said they were immediately informed of the incident by the recruiting agency. The rescue operation for the missing crewmen was stopped after two days.

The families of the seamen would receive each $50,000 in death benefits, $1,000 for burial expenses and $7,000 for each of the victim's children who are below 21 years old.

Relatives of Mateo said the seaman had twice wanted to cut short his work contract in Nigeria this year but decided against it as he wanted to attend his eldest daughter's graduation next year.

Now, the plan will not materialize since Nieto had already been presumed dead along with five other Filipinos.

Erap seeks 3-day pass

FORMER President Joseph Estrada yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan special division to give him a three-day pass to leave detention to visit his ailing 98-year-old mother and to have a tomography and magnetic resonance imaging for his aching back.

Estrada asked the court to allow him to leave Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal on Saturday afternoon. He promised the Court that he'd be back in detention on Tuesday next week.

His lawyers requested the court to set a hearing on the matter tomorrow.

Estrada also asked that he be allowed to visit his mother, to stay in his residence at Polk Street and, while there, visit his son Jinggoy, who lives in front of Mary Ejercito's residence on Kennedy Street, North Greenhills. *Norman Bordadora*

Prosecutors threaten to hale Kuratong judge to SC

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has threatened to go to the Supreme Court if Quezon City Judge Ma. Theresa Yadao continues to stall on the prosecution's motion that the Kuratong Baleleng case against opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson and 33 others be re-raffled to a family court.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño said the prosecution would question Yadao's moves to seek guidance from defense lawyers in determining whether there is a probable cause in the case.

"If she issues an adverse ruling, we will go to the Supreme Court. It's only the judge who can make a judicial determination," Zuño said.

The prosecution had questioned Yadao's actions during last Friday's hearing on the determination of probable cause, during which she allegedly entertained only the defense panel.

"To our surprise, she only asked the defense counsel to argue about their evidence. I was waiting for the court to ask me about the prosecution evidence, but the court did not do that," Zuño said.

Palace usec gets six-month reprieve

LIKE a mother to a prodigal son, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday decided to give a "very repentant" Press Undersecretary Heraclio "Rocky" Nazareno a second chance despite his boorish behavior on a chartered presidential flight from Paris to Manila.

The President approved the transfer of Nazareno, along with press assistant secretary Valentin A. Villaluz, from the Office of the Press Secretary to the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Political Affairs under his patron and bosom friend, former Rep. Hernani Braganza.

In a Special Order No. 1390 issued yesterday, Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Waldo Q. Flores signed the change in detail of Nazareno and Villaluz for a period of six months. Nazareno was undersecretary for operations of the Office of the Press Secretary.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said that Braganza had earlier requested for Nazareno's transfer to his office. Braganza hired Nazareno, then a senior INQUIRER reporter, when the former was appointed press secretary.

Press Secretary Milton Alingod said Nazareno would retain his title as Press Undersecretary until the position has been filled up by a new appointee.

Ms Macapagal approved the transfer after a sober and "very repentant" Nazareno submitted a written apology to her for "causing embarrassment" to her administration in a fit of drunken indiscretion during a recent trip abroad.

Bunye said Nazareno told the President that he was willing to "face the consequences of my indiscretion."

"He said he was sorry for causing embarrassment not only for himself but for the President," Bunye said in a press briefing.

Nazareno apologized for urinating on the emergency exit of the chartered Manila-bound Philippine Airlines flight carrying the President and her delegation from Paris on Sept. 30.

Nazareno was reportedly drunk and relieved himself on the emergency exit, which he apparently mistook for a restroom. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Juliet Labog-Javellana and an AP report*

NEWSBRIEFS

Timetable for peace

OFFICIALS and rebel Muslim representatives are to meet in Malaysia early next month to set a timetable for formal negotiations to end the 25-year southern Philippines rebellion, Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday. The government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) agreed with Malaysian officials to hold their "last exploratory talks" in Kuala Lumpur after Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad turns over power to Deputy Premier Abdullah Badawi on Oct. 31, Ermita said. He said he expects the early November meeting to set the timetable for the "reopening of the formal negotiations of the two panels." *AFP*

Typhoon skirts RP

WEATHERMEN yesterday issued a storm warning to small vessels as a powerful typhoon skirted the archipelago, but said there was no danger it would hit the country directly. The weather bureau said the typhoon—named Ketsana after a type of perfumed wood from Laos—was moving slowly northeast about 1,000 km east of Luzon, packing winds of up to 195 kph. "The disturbance is not expected to directly affect any part of the country," the bureau said. A bureau official added that the typhoon was likely to keep heading northeast and miss the islands of southern Japan. In late July, typhoon Imbudo—the strongest to hit the Philippines in five years—killed nine people and caused more than one billion pesos worth of damage to crops, mostly corn in the key growing areas on Luzon. *Reuters*

Feliciano report timing

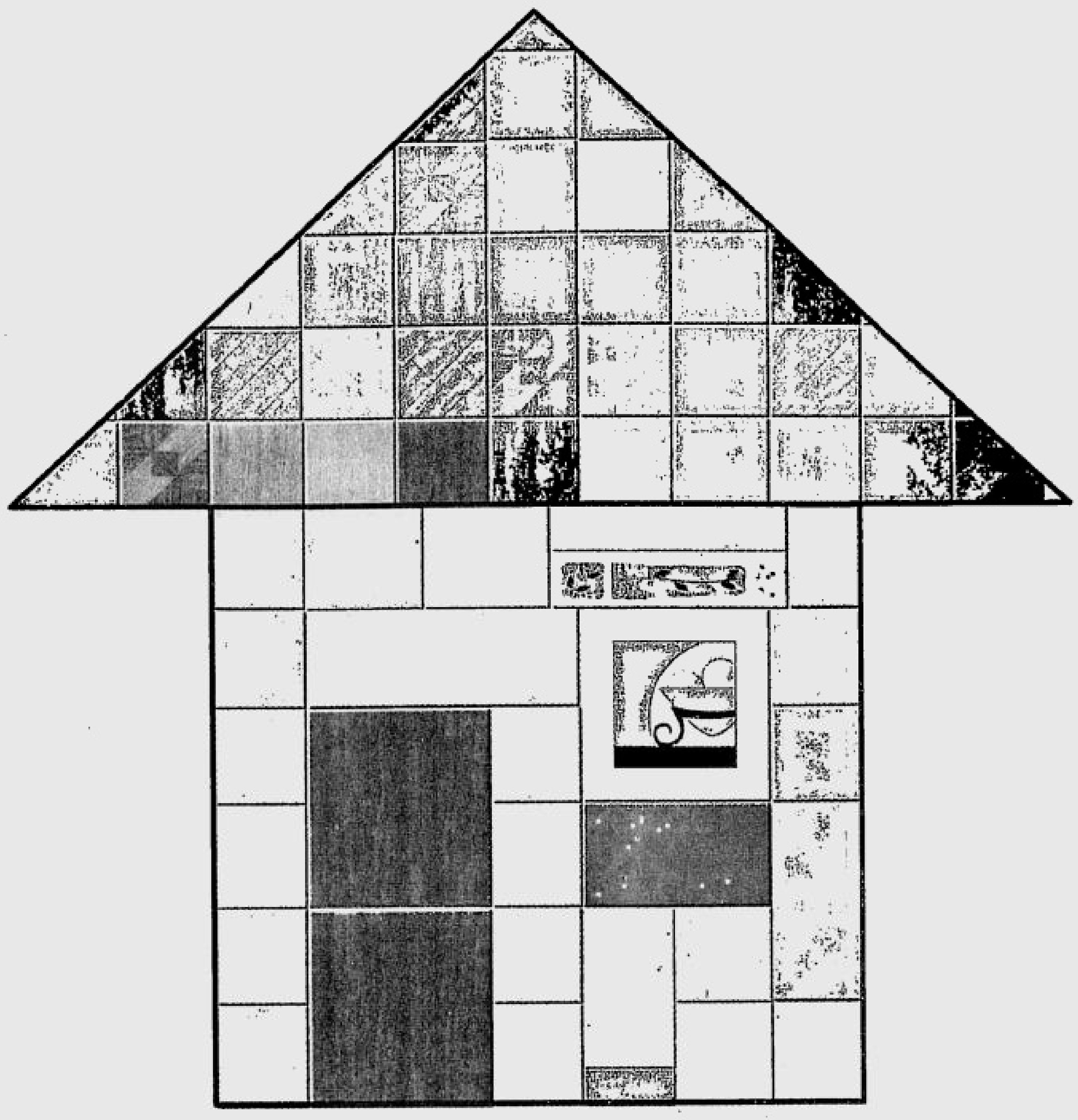
MALACAÑANG yesterday denied that it delayed the release of the Feliciano Commission report to coincide with the arrival of US President George W. Bush last Saturday, saying the report had nothing to do with the state visit. "The commission was ready to submit the report and it was simply accommodated in the President's schedule. There is no point in trying to paint political color into this event and this is a disservice to its eminent members," Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said. The commission concluded the July 27 Oakwood mutiny was well-planned and supported by civilians but found the mutineers' complaints valid.

Plea change

CITING the "language barrier," a Manila judge has granted the withdrawal of the guilty plea of Muklis Hadji Yunos, one of the suspects in the bombing of the Light Rail Transit on Dec. 30, 2000. Judge Lucia Purugganan of the Manila Regional Trial Court said that Yunos' inability to speak fluent Filipino cast doubt on whether he "had full comprehension of the consequences of his plea." Yunos' lawyer Fidel Macauyag claimed in a motion he filed on Sept. 5 that Yunos was only able to speak and understand Maranao. During court proceedings, Onos Mangotara, a lawyer from the National Bureau of Investigation translates into Maranao all communication meant for Yunos. Macauyag also said that Yunos was coerced into entering the guilty plea, alleging that his former counsel Aida Dizon had colluded with the prosecution to force Yunos to plead guilty. The court rejected these claims but ruled that Yunos' ability to speak a little Filipino did not mean he was "knowledgeable and conversant" in the language. *Tarra Quismundo*

GSIS reforms backer

THE PHILIPPINE Government Employees Association (PGEA) yesterday announced ITS support for the reforms currently being implemented in the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and thanked President Macapagal-Arroyo for retaining GSIS President and General Manager Winston Garcia. PGEA President Esperanza Ocampo, in a press statement, said that the retention of Garcia would allow the association to continue with the implementation of previous agreements made between the GSIS and PGEA.



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CEBU 233 7631 233 7633/35

OPENING HOURS
MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8:00AM-7:00PM SATURDAY: 8:00AM-5:00PM

Suspense rising on FPJ plan in 2004 elections

From page A1

President Macapagal-Arroyo's political strategists remain confident that she was still the candidate to beat but they said a Poe-Legarda opposition ticket was a cause for concern.

The more, the better

Education Secretary Raul Roco, another presidential aspirant, welcomed the likely entry of Poe into the presidential derby in May. "The water is fine. The more candidates, the better for the Filipino people," said Roco at a press conference in his office in Pasig City.

Poe's chances of winning cannot be questioned because "he has resources, he has the support of the masses and he has all the qualifications as required by the Comelec (Commission on Elections)," San Diego said.

Corazon Florentino, another FPJPM member in Cotabato City, said Poe's name had not been tainted with controversy.

This makes the movie star the most winnable of all the candidates, said Florentino, who joined other FPJPM members yesterday in distributing FPJPM stickers.

She said the stickers would inform the masses that their idol was running after all to face Ms Macapagal, the administration candidate.

Thrilled

In Pangasinan, mayors and other officials are thrilled over the imminent candidacy of their provincemate in the coming presidential election. However, the officials said they could not openly support Poe until he announced his plan to run under a united opposition.

Poe traces his roots to San Carlos City and the towns of Mangatarem and Bayambang. Poe's paternal grandmother, known in Bayambang town as *Bai* (grandmother) Tata, was from Barangay del Pilar in the town. Bai Tata was the second wife of Lorenzo Puo, the father of Fernando Sr.

"I tell you, majority of the Lakas mayors will join the Poe bandwagon the moment he announces his presidential bid. We all know that it is only he who can defeat President Macapagal-Arroyo," a mayor, who asked not to be named, said.

The mayor cited Poe's popularity and mass appeal as his ticket to the presidency. "Whenever Ms Macapagal comes (to Pangasinan), people would ask from politicians for their fare money to attend the affair. But whenever FPJ comes (to the province), people would even walk just to see him. That's how popular he is," the official said.

Postponed

Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III said yesterday that his earlier statement that he would announce today whether Poe would run was postponed because Poe had wanted to consult first with the non-governmental organizations and other groups that have clamored for him to join the presidential race before he makes his decision.

Sotto said he had been designated by Poe to be his spokesperson on this matter.

The Senate minority leader said Poe, whom he met Wednesday night, wanted to find out whether these groups were not organized by politicians or businessmen. "Because if there is one thing I'm sure of, no politician or business group will be able to convince Fernando Poe Jr., in seeking the presidency," Sotto said.

"If ever he does decide to join the presidential list of the opposition, it will be because of the people, so that in case he is chosen, he will not be beholden to any politician or interest group, but beholden to the people," the opposition senator said.

Second look

Sotto acknowledged that he did not know the people behind the movement to enlist Poe to run, which includes the Food, Peace and Justice or FPJ.

After Poe turned down calls for him to run for the presidency as early as 2002, the popular movie actor is now taking a second look at the calls because of the "sprouting" of several groups, Sotto said earlier.

Bigger then Erap

If Poe decides to run, he will undergo the process for choosing the standard-bearer of the opposition, Sotto told reporters.

Until now, the opposition has yet to finalize the process of selecting its standard-bearer, he said.

Sotto said Poe "could be bigger" than deposed President Joseph Estrada, who like Poe is a popular actor. "This is because he has no political enemies," the senator said. "He will be starting from a clean slate."

Lesson

Asked for his comment on another actor running for president, Roco said "entertainers may have the qualifications to run for president."

However, he said that "Filipinos have learned their lesson" on the actor who served as president, an apparent reference to Estrada.

Roco downplayed Poe's chances at the polls. "He (FPJ) should worry about us because we are the ones leading (in the surveys)."

In the meantime, Roco said he was still in the process of choosing a running mate under his Aksyon Demokratiko party. Among the names being floated, Roco said, were Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senators Loren Legarda, Noli De Castro and Manuel Villar, and former Pangasinan Rep. Oscar Orbos.

Suspect

In Malacañang, Mike Defensor, a member of the President's informal campaign team, said he would bet that Poe would not join politics. But if he does his motives will be suspect, according to Defensor.

Poe, he said, would be under suspicion that he would run just to avenge the ouster of his best friend Estrada, who is standing trial for plunder.

Heherson Alvarez, spokesperson of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, said Poe was being pressured by Estrada to run in order to rescue him from his case.

"Many of his (Poe's) friends have pointed out that he does not want to be in politics. In fact he did not even run for councilor. So why is he going to take up Erap's burden?" Alvarez said.

No meaningful debates

Alvarez said there would be no meaningful debates on platform and vision of leadership with a FPJ-Legarda ticket.

"We're seriously concerned because if it will be an FPJ-Legarda ticket, the debates will degenerate into down and out populism. There will no room to debate platform, experience and vision," Alvarez said.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye declined to say if the President would be afraid of having Poe as rival in 2004.

"Anybody is free to run for as long as he meets the minimum requirements of age, residency and citizenship," Bunye said.

Defensor acknowledged that the administration had to find a very popular running mate for Ms Macapagal to match Legarda, who recently resigned from the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats.

Major showdown

If the administration adopts De Castro as Ms Macapagal's running mate, the vice presidency would be a "major showdown" between De Castro and his fellow ABS-CBN personality Legarda.

He said that based on surveys, De Castro's support cut across all economic classes, with a commanding lead in the poor CDE class. He noted that Legarda had a "little edge" in the AB class.

Alvarez said the administration would put up another "media-genic" personality to match Legarda. He did not rule out the possibility of De Castro being tapped for the position.

Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier acknowledged that a Poe candidacy would draw away votes from Ms Macapagal.

But Sen. Manuel Villar said he did not see a Poe candidacy greatly affecting Ms Macapagal's own candidacy.

"I think a Poe candidacy is strong but it would depend on who the candidate is of the People's Power Coalition," Villar said.

Lacson affected

Villar, who is part of the Wednesday Group of the Senate and PPC-independent senators which is talking to other presidential aspirants, said this was because De Castro could be a strong presidential contender.

"I'm not saying (De Castro) is running, and he doesn't want to run for president," Villar said. "We are just saying if he wants to run, he will be considered."

Villar said a Poe candidacy would affect Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the other presidential aspirant in the opposition.

Lacson told reporters that with businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco apparently out of the presidential race, the race could now be between him and Poe.

But he noted that until now it was not even certain whether Poe would really run.

"We've heard from Sen. Sotto, Sen. Angara and Sen. Enrile. But we haven't heard from FPJ himself," Lacson said.

With reports from Alcuin Papa and Juliet Labog-Javellana

Left leaning on FPJ candidacy

From page A1

themes of the movies FPJ starred in."

Beltran said that the 64-year-old Poe played characters like Asedillo who "defends national sovereignty and patrimony against foreign invaders such as US troops during the Fil-American war and the Japanese Imperial Army."

In "Asedillo" (1971), Poe played an idealistic schoolteacher who rebelled against the American colonial government. It was based on a true-to-life story of Teodoro Asedillo. In the film, Poe paraphrased Mao Zedong's quotation on guerrilla warfare, saying "*Ako ay isang isda lamang, kayo ang aking dagat*" (I am only a fish, you are my ocean)."

Clean hands

With high-level opposition officials courting Poe, known as FPJ, some senators predicted he would announce his intentions soon. Poe, the man described as the homegrown Clint Eastwood, already is being talked up as a "clean hands" candidate untainted by the kind of corruption charges his close pal, Joseph Estrada, faces after he was deposed as President by a popular revolt in 2001.

Short of saying that he was endorsing Poe, Beltran said Poe's "career as an actor and his conduct as a private citizen have not been tainted with controversy."

Beltran said that personally, he did not see anything wrong with FPJ running for president. "It doesn't count so much that FPJ does not have a strong background in government service so long as his heart and mind are sincerely open to the Filipino people," he said.

Waiting for platforms

Rather than the outright thumbs down it gave other opposition presidential hopefuls, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said it was willing to give the prospective opposition standard-bearer an ear to get his stand on such issues as poverty, social justice, the need for genuine land reform, and the (communist and Moro) insurgencies.

"We are waiting for FPJ to articulate his platform and we are interested in his agenda," Teodoro Casiño, Bayan secretary general, said. "We want to know if he will be able to differentiate himself from the other members of the (mainstream) opposition."

Casiño said FPJ was the opposition's only fighting chance to defeat Ms Macapagal. "The people no longer want the President. But in no way would we support the likes of (Sen. Panfilo) Lacson and (Eduardo "Danding") Cojuangco," he said.

While Bayan does not endorse presidential candidates, Poe's views on issues may be taken up for consideration by Bayan, according to Casiño.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas also wanted Poe to clarify his opinion on such matters as trade liberalization and globalization, agrarian reform and the government's all-out war against the communist insurgency.

"The call now is to junk GMA in the elections and Poe has the capability to do that in the polls. The challenge for him is how he would address the problems of the people," KMP spokesperson Jim Fernando said.

Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson, is not too critical of Poe.

"It's now a done deal for FPJ as the opposition bet," Rosal told the INQUIRER in a cellular phone interview.

"Danding is now out of contention after securing a deal from Malacañang for his ill-gotten San Miguel Corp. shares. Lacson has long been itching to run for president but the problem is that his fellow oppositionists dread the thought of him becoming president," Rosal said.

He said Ms Macapagal would surely encounter a strong opponent in FPJ. He said he was merely voicing his personal opinion.

Lesser evil

However, Rosal made it clear that he still shared the opinion of exiled CPP founder Jose Maria Sison that former Sen. Raul Roco was the "lesser evil" in the presidential race.

Rosal expressed the belief that whoever won in the presidential election would end up as "another US puppet just like the past Philippine presidents," he said.

If Poe chooses to, "he could really make a difference," Beltran said.

Beltran offered this unsolicited advice: If Poe decides to run, he should not allow himself to be controlled or dictated upon by advisers who are of the militarist mind-set or by those strongly connected to big business.

"This is where the problem starts—when a politician becomes beholden to the military, big business and worse, the US government and its point men in the country," the Bayan representative said.

Desperate

A group of militant priests, however, are not too keen on Poe's candidacy.

"With FPJ's candidacy, it's like telling the whole world that Philippine politics is now getting desperate. Show biz and political circus clowns are now dominating the political leadership," said Fr. Raul Enriquez, spokesperson of Gomburza.

"God help this country."

Enriquez alleged that a "vested interest group" was pushing for Poe's candidacy.

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Canadian embassy to move

CANADA'S embassy in the Philippines said Wednesday it would move to a new location, one year after both the Canadian and Australian missions were temporarily shut down by a "specific" terrorist threat.

The Canadian embassy said it is relocating to the same building that now hosts the Australian embassy. The latter moved to a more secure office building in the Makati financial district earlier this year.

The Canadian mission will begin operating at the new address on November 4, it said in a statement.

Canada shuttered its Manila mission on October 28 after Canada and Australia received terrorist threats. The Canadian embassy reopened a month later.

Neither embassy elaborated on the threats, but said they were "specific" and targeted the missions.

Philippine officials have said they feared the southern Mindanao region, wracked by a Muslim separatist rebellion, could become an operational base of the Jemaah Islamiyah, a militant Islamic group that has been blamed for the Bali, Indonesia bomb blasts that claimed 202 lives last year. *AFP*

GMA to sign law raising judges' pay

By Cynthia D. Balana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to sign into law today the Congress-ratified conference committee report measure granting special allowances to judges and justices, Speaker Jose de Venecia said yesterday.

"This is part of a series of judicial reforms that must be pursued to make our judicial system more effective and efficient. The move will greatly help isolate the judiciary from corruption," De Venecia said.

Section 2 of the proposed law grants judges and justices special allowances equivalent to 100 percent of the basic monthly salary specified for their respective salary grades under Republic Act No. 6758, otherwise known as the Salary Standardization Law, to be implemented for a period of four years.

De Venecia said Congress would continue to approve measures that would ensure the independence of the judiciary as mandated by the Constitution and the impartial administration of justice.

He also credited the House contingent in the conference committee which reconciled the conflicting provisions of the Senate and House-approved versions. They included Reps. Rodolfo Albano Jr., Danton Bueser, Rolex Suplico, Gilbert Remulla and Bellaflor Angara-Castillo.

The measure provides that the amount necessary to implement the additional compensation in the form of special allowances granted under this act shall be sourced from and charged against the legal fees originally prescribed, imposed and collected under Rule 141 of the Rules of Court, and from the increases in current and new fees which may be imposed by the Supreme Court after the effectivity of this Act.

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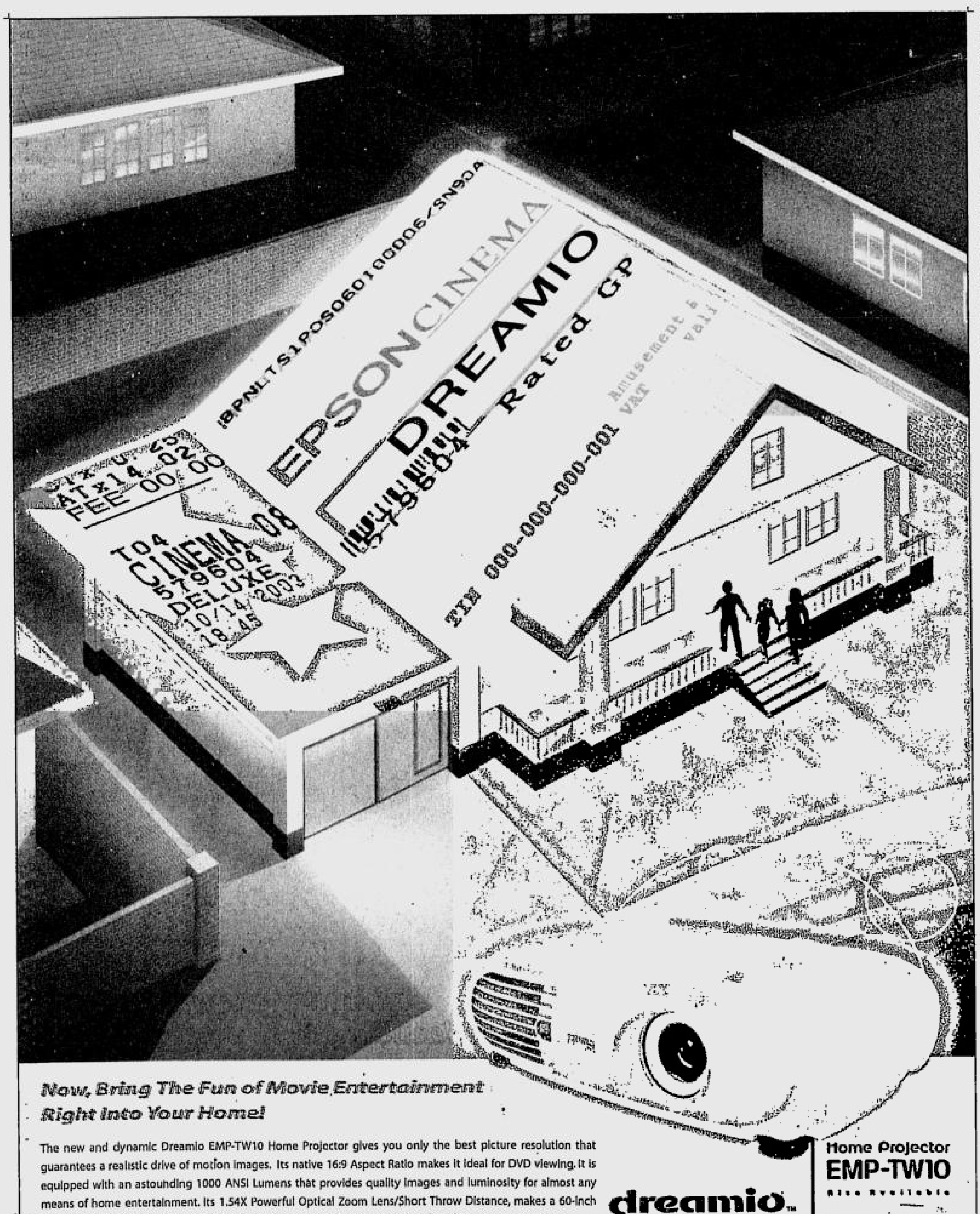

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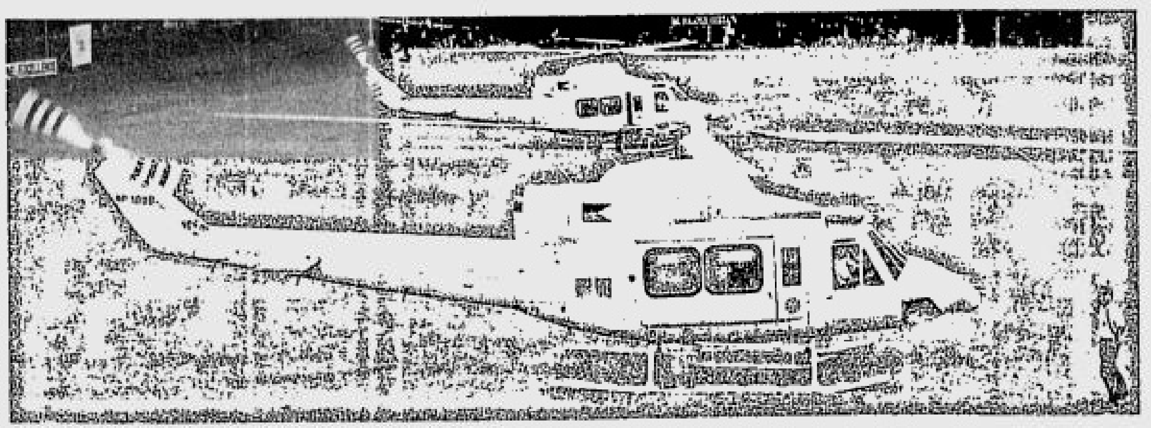
Dato does a Jude, uses Palace chopper

From page A1


PROTOTYPE of the presidential chopper used by the presidential son. PDI PHOTO

DATO Macapagal-Arroyo: Private person on a private visit aboard public property. JOAN BONDOC

MassKara Festival.

The Bell chopper landed at the helipad of Camp Alfredo Montelibano Sr. in Barangay Camingawan, Senior Supt. Vicente Ponteras, Negros Occidental police director, said yesterday.

"We knew he was in town because his security men informed me of their presence," Ponteras said, and described Dato's visit as "private" because no government official was with him in the chopper.

"[Dato] came alone with his presidential security guard because he likes to spend time with his friends here," said Negros Occidental Board Member Emilio Montalvo.

The visit triggered memories of a similar unofficial interlude in June 1999 involving Jude, then President Joseph Estrada's youngest child by Sen. Luisa Ejercito-Estrada.

While his father was winding up a visit to Japan, Jude arrived in Cagayan de Oro City aboard the presidential jet with a group of friends and a plane crew of seven, supposedly to visit a girlfriend.

He was reported to have left more than P60,000 in unpaid food and hotel bills.

Ignacio Arroyo, brother of Dato's father Jose Miguel Arroyo, confirmed that his nephew was in Bacolod on Sunday to meet with friends, including some graduates of the Ateneo Law School.

Dato stayed with his uncle during his visit. He left Bacolod Tuesday afternoon.

Authorized

In Manila, Presidential Security Group chief Col. Delfin Bangit defended Dato's trip as "part of our security requirement" for members of the First Family.

"That [trip] was authorized," he said.

According to Bangit, there is nothing wrong if Dato and his security aides use the presidential choppers because he and other members of the First Family are also under PSG protection.

"Official [use] or not, we have to secure him," Bangit said in a phone interview. "He has a security complement and I don't think we can abandon him even if he goes to an unofficial function. It's just like allowing him to use a car."

Movements confidential

The chopper reportedly left Villamor Air Base on Sunday morning. It reportedly stopped over at the Mactan Benito Ebuen Air Base in Cebu to refuel before flying to Bacolod 30-45 minutes away.

Sources at the Mactan air base could not tell whether Dato was with some companions. They said pilots of presidential aircraft were not required to log the names of the passengers and crew.

"We just record the destination of the aircraft and its number. Besides, the chopper came from Villamor. But we knew that [Dato] was on board the chopper at that time," the sources said.

The refuel reportedly took from 30 minutes to an hour.

As in the Mactan air base, the Philippine Air Force office at Camp Alfredo Montelibano Sr. did not log the arrival and exit of the chopper.

Capt. Francis Flores of the PAF Direct Support Group said the movements of presidential aircraft were considered confidential.

"But [the aircraft] was light blue and looked like a Bell model," Flores said.

Straight to Bacolod

On the other hand, a pilot who used to escort the flights of the presidential chopper drew a different scenario.

The pilot, who asked not to be named, said Dato was with seven friends.

"If [the chopper] flies high and fast, they can fly from Manila straight to Bacolod given a full tank," he said [Under the law of gravity], less fuel [is used] when you fly high because the pressure is less. There is no way for them to stop over at Mactan air base unless there is another official itinerary awaiting for them."

The pilot also said that most likely, the engine was not turned off at the Bacolod airport where Dato and his friends alighted, and the chopper flew straight to Camingawan for security reasons and presumably to refuel.

Camingawan is less than 10 kilometers away from the Bacolod airport. It is where the PAF Direct Support Group is stationed.

Off the hook

The pilot said Dato should not be criticized if he attended the MassKara festivities in behalf of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Another source agreed: "He is off the hook if he was invited by MassKara organizers to represent his mother."

Yet another source said Dato's father also used a presidential chopper to play golf in Tarlac last year. For that trip, the First Gentleman was escorted by PAF helicopters.

Dato's friends

In Bacolod, among those whom Dato got in touch with were his friends, Councilor Francis Montalvo of Isabela town and sister Michelle.

The Arroyos own property in Isabela, about 82 kilometers southeast of Bacolod.

Board Member Montalvo, father of Francis and Michelle, said some of his children's classmates from Bohol were present at the reunion with Dato.

Montalvo also said Dato attended the MassKara Festival that ended with a street-dance competition on Sunday, and went out to eat with his friends.

Humble

"Dato is a very humble, low-key person," Montalvo said: "He tries to keep out of the public eye and avoids crowds that can recognize him. He only drinks beer and does not get rowdy."

But according to the pilot, Dato "doesn't have to be very nice."

"By virtue of his being the President's son, all he has to do is call the PSG, which will inform the 250th [Presidential Airlift Wing], which will then act accordingly on his request," the pilot said.

Rules flexible

All presidential choppers are under the supervision of the 250th Presidential Airlift Wing, the premier unit of the Armed Forces mandated to provide air transportation for the President and her family, visiting heads of state and other VIPs.

"If you are going to have a test flight, only the pilot and his maintenance crew are allowed to board the chopper," a PAF pilot told the INQUIRER. "However, it is understood that if you are part of the presidential family, whether on an official or unofficial gathering, the rules are flexible." *With reports from Juliet L. Javellana in Manila; Joselle d.R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Skip 'tapa,' spare 'usa' . . .

From page A1

Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun issued a memorandum dated Oct. 16 taking to task all 16 regional executive directors of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the continued operation of restaurants serving wildlife species, including the *dugong* (sea cow), Philippine spotted deer (*usa*), *bayawak* (monitor lizard), or Visayan warty pig.

She ordered them to conduct an aggressive information drive to apprise restaurant owners of the penalties for violating laws and regulations enforced to protect Philippine wildlife.

Gozun yesterday said complaints had reached the DENR regarding the serving of wild animals and plants as *pulutan* or as delicacies in so-called "exotic food restaurants" all over the country.

She said that despite the fact that Metro Manila was the center of government and information, it remained the center of the illegal trade in wildlife.

"Many people are not aware that 72 percent of Philippine wild animals and plants are already threatened with extinction," she added.

According to figures provided by the DENR, 418 of the 584 wildlife species of Philippine flora and fauna are about to become extinct unless government and community protection becomes effective against "culinary" and commercial exploitation.

Cult status

Gozun ordered the regional directors to scour their jurisdictions for restaurants that have somehow gained cult status for serving wild animals.

She said the practice must be stopped, or the establishment owners would face serious criminal liability.

Gozun also said these owners held the key to the unmasking of the illegal traders in wildlife that were catering to both restaurants and pet shops.

Republic Act No. 9147 (or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act) specifies imprisonment of 6-12 years and a fine of as much as P1 million for the slaughter of such Philippine indigenous wildlife as the *dugong*, spotted deer, Visayan warty pig and Philippine crocodile.

The penalty is the same for the killing of the Philippine eagle, *tamaraw* and Dinagat cloud rat.

Dire consequences

Gozun said even snakes, often killed and served as *adobo* or deep fried in garlic, should be protected.

"Eating wildlife species has dire consequences," she said, adding:

"The unabated catching of Philippine snakes in rice fields can result in rat infestation as a result of the destruction of the predator-prey relationship in the food chain.

"It is urgent that the DENR field offices be proactive in informing all restaurants and individuals [about the state of Philippine wildlife]."

Dugong, for instance, are slaughtered for their meat and sold secretly in public markets for up to P50 a kilo.

The bladder and innards of the *dugong*, as well as the Philippine snake, are consumed by macho Filipino beer drinkers for their medicinal and alleged aphrodisiac properties.

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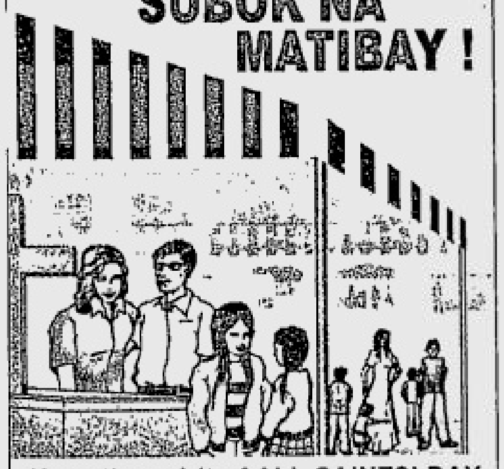

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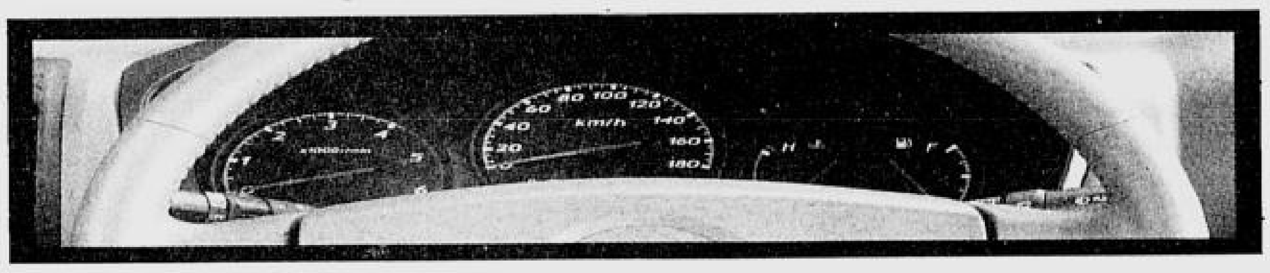

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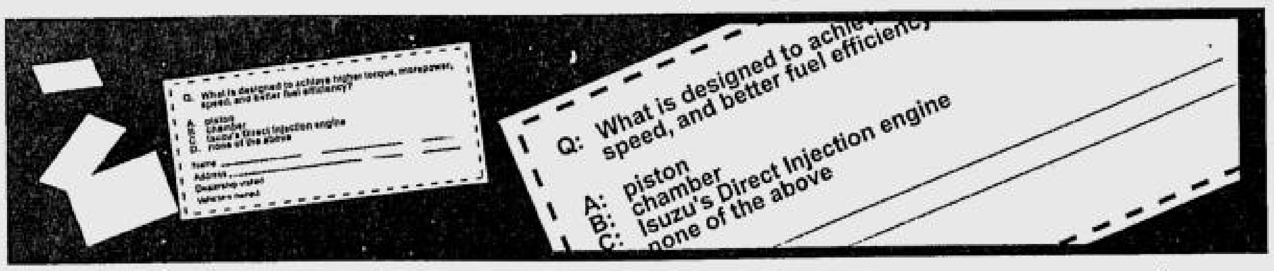
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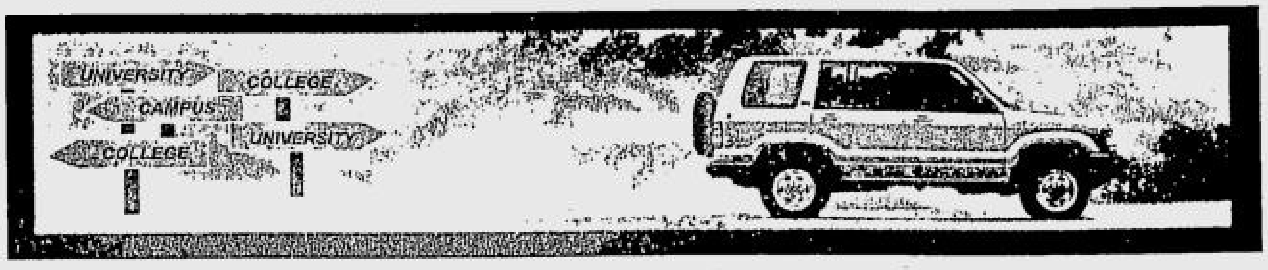

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Taufik as big a catch as Al-Ghozi, says cop

By Christian V. Esguerra and TJ Burgonio

INDONESIAN Taufik Rifqi is as big a catch as his late compatriot Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, according to a police official.

As finance liaison officer of the Jemaah Islamiyah, Rifqi, 29, was the JI's point man in the Philippines as far as funding terrorist training facilities in Mindanao was concerned, the official said on condition of anonymity.

He said these "schools of terrorism" were put up as part of the so-called "holy war" silently declared by the JI and its local supporters to justify bombings and other terrorist activities here.

An Army official, who also asked not to be named, said these training facilities were found in major territories of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, such as those in the Lanao area and in Maguindanao, where Rifqi stayed in Buldon town before his arrest on Oct. 2.

"In the center of every major MILF territory is a community of terrorists who came from Indonesia," the Army official said. "This should disprove the MILF's usual claim that it doesn't coddle terrorists."

Another police official said that like some 30 other JI men operating in the Philippines, Rifqi could speak local languages, making it easier for him to make connections with residents.

Rifqi played such a crucial role in the JI that the US government had been urging local authorities to allow its men to interrogate him, the official said.

Also known as Izza Kusoman and Abu Obaida, Rifqi was reportedly the understudy of Al-Ghozi.

Initial military reports said Rifqi arrived in Mindanao in August 1998 to train in bomb-making under the JI munitions expert. He went on to become the JI's liaison and finance officer.

Cotabato City cop chief sacked

From page A1

Taufik Rifqi. *(See story above.)*

Ebdane said Rifqi had been in police custody since his arrest two weeks ago and would be presented to the media today. He said the presentation had been delayed because follow-up operations had to be conducted.

Makakua had reportedly said that a manual found in the apartment, supposedly detailing how to wage biological warfare, was planted by the raiders.

Military officials have since clarified that no such manual had been found, only "notes on bioterror, bio-toxic materials."

Downgraded alert

The Armed Forces yesterday downgraded its red alert status despite the threat posed by at least 40 supposed JI members believed operating in Central Mindanao.

The military lowered its status to white alert at 7 a.m. Wednesday, less than 12 hours after President Macapagal-Arroyo flew in from Bangkok where she attended the Asia Pacific Economic Conference summit.

The red alert was raised Wednesday last week in view of the President's departure for the Organization of the Islamic Conference summit in Kuala Lumpur and the Oct. 18 visit of US President George W. Bush.

"Definitely, [the suspected JI operatives] pose a threat. But maintaining the alert is not commensurate to the threat that they pose," said Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, chief military information officer.

Lucero said troops from the Army's 6th Infantry Division, together with intelligence agents and police officers, were combing the Philippines' border with Malaysia and Indonesia in search of the JI operatives.

Porous backdoor

But he admitted that it would be difficult for the military to monitor every border movement given its deficiency in equipment and sea vessels.

"Actually, our southern backdoor is so porous that just anybody can go in and out of our territory without much effort," he said, adding:

"Although we've got a border-crossing agreement with Indonesia, we don't have that much equipment and enough sea vessels to monitor every inch of the border with Malaysia and Indonesia.

"They can enter with impunity."

The President ordered the military and police Tuesday to track down the supposed JI operatives, including those who eluded arrest during the raid on the Cotabato City apartment.

Immigration and security personnel at Philippine airports and other possible "exit points" were likewise told to be on the alert.

Lucero said those who escaped before the raid could be part of the 40-member group who supposedly trained in Camp Abubakar, a stronghold of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front that was overrun by the military in July 2000.

"It's possible that they are part of the JI group we are looking for," he said.

JI photos

Ebdane said photos of some suspected terrorists believed staying in the country would be publicized.

But he qualified: "Of course, what we will make available would be the photos of those who have pending cases in court."

Ebdane also said US operatives who might want to question Rifqi could come to the Philippines and seek cooperation.

He said it would be but natural for the US government to be interested in Rifqi because of the JI links with al-Qaida.

"[Fighting terror] is a joint effort," he pointed out.

Ebdane added that US forensic assistance had been sought regarding the chemical residues found in the suspected JI safe house in Cotabato City.

Drunken Magdalo suspect falls

From page A1

and Daniela Santos, 23. They were reportedly drinking brandy with Sen before the raid.

Ebdane said the high-powered firearms and the thousands of pieces of live ammunition, some in containers marked government property, found in the condominium unit also bolstered the suspicion that Sen could have been a civilian supporter of the failed mutiny.

But Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, commander of the Western Police District, said investigators had yet to determine whether Sen was indeed involved in the mutiny.

Right to remain silent

Chief Insp. Arturo Paglinawan said charges of assault, property damage, illegal possession of firearms and alarm and scandal were being readied against Sen and the other suspects.

Paglinawan said Sen invoked his right to remain silent upon the advice of his lawyer.

Investigation showed that at about 11:20 p.m. Tuesday, police received a complaint of indiscriminate shooting coming from Sen's condominium unit on the third floor of the LTS Building.

Policemen who rushed to the scene, however, were also fired at, prompting them to call in the Special Weapons and Tactics team who stormed the condominium unit.

Cache

The raiders found in Sen's unit two M-16 rifles, an M-14 rifle, two cal. 22 rifles, and seven pistols. They also seized thousands of rounds of ammunition for M-14 and M-16 rifles, M-203 grenade launcher, and 45 cal. pistol, jungle knives, hand-held radios, video cameras, and two sets of military uniform.

The arrests came a few days after the Feliciano Commission concluded that the Oakwood incident was part of an elaborate plan of several junior military officers backed by some politicians to seize power from the Macapagal administration.

The PNP, however, played down suggestions that the mutinous officers were still capable of mounting an uprising. *With reports from AP and AFP*

PDI publisher Isagani Yambot receives the award on behalf of Nestor U. Torre who's in Rome for Mother Teresa's beatification. ROGER CARPIO

WINNERS: PDI writers Stella Gonzales and Nancy Carvajal receive their CMMA awards in the Investigative Report category during award rites at the Ateneo de Manila University. ROGER CARPIO

Another award for Inquirer's 'Abadilla 5'

From page A1

ety of Publishers in Asia (Sopa) 2003 Editorial Excellence Awards for Excellence in Specialized Reporting. The Sopa Awards celebrate editorial excellence in both traditional and new media based in Asia. The INQUIRER story won in category B, which is for local newspapers, as compared to category A, which are for regional papers.

In "Viewfinder," which comes out seven days a week, Torre analyzes, criticizes and praises show business and its talents or non-talents, reviews films and TV programs, and even points out the rampant misuse of the English and Filipino languages on TV in his popular "boob-tube booboos."

The CMMA, an annual tradition since 1978, is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Manila to honor communicators. This year, the awards were held at the Irwin Lee Theater of the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City.

Against death penalty

In her acceptance speech, Gonzales dedicated the award to the Abadilla 5—Lenido Lumanog, Cesar Fortuna, Joel de Jesus, Rameses de Jesus and Augusto Santos—and to the campaign against the death penalty.

The three other finalists in the investigative reporting category were: "Case vs NPA founder shows land reform rot" by Tonette Orejas and Russel Arador (INQUIRER), "Doctor's claim HMOs put profit ahead of patients" by Jerry Esplanada (INQUIRER), and "Flesh trade in Japan fed with young Pinay" by Alfred Dalizon (People's Journal).

The other finalists in the entertainment column category were: "Dolphy at 75" by Billy Balbastro (Homelife Magazine) and "The spy in the sandwich" by Ian Rosales Casocot (Starlife Sunday-Visayan Daily Star).

Other INQUIRER finalists were: "The Amorsolo portrait" by Lito Zulueta and "Thursdays with Marisette" by Cathy Babao-Guballa for Best Special Feature; "They won't get away with this" by Carlito Pablo, TJ Burgonio and the PDI Mindanao Bureau and "Queens sacrifice" by the PDI Northern Luzon Bureau for Best News Coverage and "War break" by Dennis Sabangan for Best News Photo.

CLIMACO

VILLARAZA

The Firm files P100-M damage suit vs Fraport

From page A1

adviser for strategic projects.

P50 million

Climaco said she would file libel charges against Bender and other officials of the German company here and abroad. At a press conference in San Juan, Climaco said she was filing the charges after the Fraport officials claimed she tried to extort money from them for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 project.

Climaco said she would seek P50 million in damages and would donate this to a children's fund if she wins. "I know I will win," she said.

She said she might also file the suit in the United States where Fraport filed an arbitration complaint before World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) to seek $425 million in compensation from the government for the Naia 3 project.

The government nullified the contracts of the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. to build and operate Naia 3 on the ground that these had onerous provisions. Fraport is the biggest investor in Piatco.

Villaraza and his law partners said Bender and Scholch, along with Filipino lawyers Cesar Manalaysay and Edgardo Balois, also "blackened the name and reputation which the plaintiffs had worked so hard for and caused them grave and serious damage."

The plaintiffs claimed that even if Fraport accused only Villaraza of demanding millions of dollars from the German firm, the professional careers and reputations of his partners were damaged by the accusation.

Malicious

In a phone interview with the Inquirer, Angangco said Fraport's accusations of alleged extortion against Villaraza were "totally malicious and false."

"Their allegations were totally unnecessary in their claim for compensations for the terminal," Angangco said.

He added that they also are studying libel as a further cause of action.

In a letter to ICSID on Sept. 17, Bender and Scholch disclosed that Villaraza demanded money from the firm to facilitate the ouster of Fraport's Filipino partner, the Cheng family, from Naia 3 so that groups favored by Malacañang could take part in the project.

The ICSID recently granted the request of Fraport for arbitration to resolve its dispute with the Philippine government over the yet-to-be-opened terminal.

The plaintiffs, in their complaint, said that the defendants deliberately included the charges against them to make it appear that the Philippine government, purportedly working through the plaintiffs, was demanding illegal payment in exchange for the operation of the Naia 3 project by Fraport.

They stressed in their complaint that "the charges were also made by the defendants deliberately, maliciously, and in utter bad faith, to cause damage to plaintiffs in furtherance of their scheme to insure the payment of their alleged investment in the Philippines."

The plaintiffs asked the court to issue an order directing the ex-parte issuance of a writ of preliminary attachment against the defendants' assets in the Philippines.

They also said the defendants should pay them P15 million as actual or compensatory damages, P65 million by way of moral damages, P10 million for exemplary damages, and P10 million for attorney's fees and other legal costs.

Anti-dummy law

Also yesterday, a lawyer asked the Department of Justice to investigate Fraport for violating the anti-dummy law and the constitutional prohibition against foreigners owning more than 40 percent of public utilities.

Jose Bernas said Fraport may have violated the country's laws because it admitted owning "directly and indirectly 61.44 percent" of Piatco. Bernas was the lawyer of some congressmen who challenged the Naia 3 contract before the Supreme Court.

40% max

He said that in the request for arbitration it filed before the ICSID Fraport stated that it "directly and indirectly owns 61.44 percent of Piatco" through "the cascade of companies that hold interest in Piatco."

He said the request also listed the cascade companies as the Philippine Airport and Ground Services (PAGS), PAGS Terminals Holding Inc. (PTH), and PAGS Terminals, Inc. (PTI).

Bernas said the document showed that Fraport "indirectly" owns 14 percent of Piatco through PTI; 8.4 percent through PTH; and 9.04 percent through PAGS.

"Fraport, along with its shareholders at Piatco, appears to have violated Article XII, Section 11 of the Constitution, which limits the grant of a franchise for the operation of public utilities to corporations with a maximum of 40 percent foreign ownership," Bernas said in his five-page complaint.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Iran defers nuke program, allows inspections

TEHRAN—Iran has agreed to suspend uranium enrichment and give inspectors unrestricted access to its nuclear facilities as demanded by the UN watchdog agency, a step that could ease the standoff over fears Iran is seeking to build nuclear weapons.

Tuesday's announcement came after weeks of pressure on Iran to meet an Oct. 31 deadline to come clean on its nuclear program, which Washington believes aims to build a nuclear arsenal. The United States—which has led the charge for the UN Security Council to take action against Tehran—gave a cautious welcome.

If Iran follows through with its promises, it "would be a positive step in the right direction," White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan said. "Full compliance by Iran will now be essential."

Iran, which says its nuclear programs aims only for electricity production, made the commitments after the foreign ministers of Britain, France and Germany came to Iran to press the demands by the UN International Atomic Energy Agency. Tehran did not say when it would take the steps, although a British official said it would likely be before the deadline.

Iran also agreed to hand over other information long sought by the IAEA, said diplomats in Vienna, where the IAEA is based. According to diplomats who spoke on condition of anonymity, Iran promised to account for the origin of traces of weapons-grade uranium that IAEA inspectors discovered at two facilities, raising alarm bells in Vienna and Washington.

IAEA head Mohamed ElBaradei has called those traces, found in environmental samples, the most troubling aspect of Iran's nuclear activities. Iran says the contamination was on equipment it imported for peaceful nuclear purposes, but it resisted IAEA requests that it name the country of origin. Once the agency knows where the equipment comes from, it can test the truth of Iran's claims.

The direct intervention by the three European ministers—who flew to Tehran for talks Tuesday, after which Iranian officials announced their promises—highlighted the differing strategies Europe and Washington have toward Iran's Islamic government.

The United States characterized Iran as part of an "axis of evil"—alongside Iraq, whose regime US troops later ousted. Washington has pushed fellow members of the IAEA board to declare Tehran in breach of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. That would likely prompt the UN Security Council to impose sanctions on Iran.

The head of Israel's military intelligence warned on Tuesday that if Iran completes its program for enriching uranium, it would be able to produce its own nuclear weapons without outside help by the summer of 2004.

The Europeans have tried to engage the Tehran government. On Tuesday, the three ministers promised that if Iran did meet its commitments, their countries would help it get peaceful nuclear technology. *AP*

US Army convoys ambushed in Iraq

BAGHDAD — Iraq's ambush bombers struck Wednesday in the center of Baghdad and in the tense Sunni Muslim area west of the capital, rocking US Army convoys with roadside bombs.

The attack in Baghdad inflicted only light casualties, a US officer at the scene reported. Witnesses said four Americans were carried away on stretchers in an attack on the western end of the flashpoint city Fallujah, but there was no comment from US officials.

In the southern city of Najaf, a small band of gunmen staged a midnight attack on the headquarters of a leading Shiite Muslim political organization, but no casualties were reported in the firefight, said a spokesperson for the group, the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI).

The spokesperson, who identified himself as Abu Ahmed, said four of six attackers were captured and admitted they were loyalists of the Baath Party of deposed President Saddam Hussein.

During years of Shiite suppression under Saddam's Baathist regime, the SCIRI group fueled opposition to the Baghdad government from exile. Since Saddam's fall in April, it has taken a prominent role in the postwar political transition inside Iraq.

The homemade bomb in Baghdad exploded as a three-Humvee convoy passed through a road tunnel under Tayeran Square, already teeming with Iraqis at 6:45 a.m. The blast, whose concentrated sound reverberated through central Baghdad, lightly wounded two 1st Armored Division soldiers and damaged a Humvee, the division's Capt. Tommy Leslie said afterward.

Local residents said US Army convoys had been repeatedly targeted in the tunnel.

"It's always the same," said traffic policeman Adnan Khadim, 43, assigned to the area. "They should stop using the tunnel."

A US Army Humvee could be seen burning on the western edge of the city, where one American paratrooper was killed and six were wounded in an ambush Monday. *AP*

20 A Toast to twenty years of F.A.M.E.

Manila F.A.M.E. International

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paskuhan

Dubbed as Asia's Queen of Trade Fairs, Manila F.A.M.E. International remains the show to beat in product innovation and creative presentation.

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Indeed, big surprises come in small packages. As other shows have gone for sheer size and quantity, Manila F.A.M.E. has opted to keep its offerings simple, focused, yet memorable. After all, Philippine design has been known to stand alone and get noticed, even without the frills.

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Moments of F.A.M.E.

1 The Apparel Market Week, the precursor of Manila F.A.M.E. (Furnishings and Apparel Manufacturers Exchange), was held in May 1983. Five other Apparel and Fashion Market Weeks were organized, 2 of them in Hong Kong.

2 The Furniture and Furnishings Market Week debuted in February 1984. Its thirteenth and last run in March 1990 was followed by a repositioned Home Furnishings Market Week in 1992.

3 The Gifts and Houseware Market Week premiered in October 1983 and ran 38 editions.

4 A total of 59 Manila F.A.M.E. Market Weeks have been successfully organized in the last 20 years.

5 Since its inception in 1983, Manila F.A.M.E. has featured some 2000 companies from all over the country.

6 The Best in the World Program brought in 32 international designers and merchandisers to develop new products alongside Filipino manufacturers.

7 Budji Layug was commissioned as the first Filipino design consultant for the Manila F.A.M.E. in 1994. Since then, 38 Filipino designers have signed on as consultants.

8 Manila F.A.M.E. developed new export sectors such as ceramics, handmade paper, holiday décor, wooden gifts and fashion accessories.

9 The Partner Region Program was initiated in 1999, bringing design consultancy to far-flung regions ARMM, CAR, Eastern Visayas and CARAGA.

10 Manila F.A.M.E. went international in 1997 with the participation of exhibitors from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Vietnam, Singapore, Korea, Hong Kong, Myanmar, Taiwan, Germany, USA and the United Kingdom.

11 The Gifts and Houseware show in April 1999 was held in 5 venues, with 712 exhibitors, the highest for any Market Week. It generated a record US$119.6 million in total sales.

12 In April 2000, the Manila F.A.M.E. Market Week was re-launched as Manila F.A.M.E. International featuring 3 shows: *Paskuhan*, A Christmas Village; *Tindahan*, The Fashion Store; and *Palengke*, A Marketplace for Home Ideas.

13 In the past 5 years, Manila F.A.M.E contributed an average of 15% of total Philippine exports of giftware, furnishings, Christmas décor and fashion accessories.

14 Manila F.A.M.E. set the standard for international exhibition in the country, earning accreditation by the *Union des Foires Internationales (UFI)* in November 2000.

15 The *Katha* Design Award was launched in 1983 to recognize Manila F.A.M.E.'s exhibitors who champion design excellence in products and booth displays. Today, it remains a highly coveted award for Filipino exporters and designers.

16 1999 marked the birth of Movement 8, an All-Filipino design collective that aims to establish Philippine design in the international market. Movement 8 members come from Manila F.A.M.E.'s roster of top exhibitors.

17 From April 1999 to April 2003, visiting buyers infused over PhP 613 million into the local economy in the form of hotel, food and transportation expenses.

18 Manila F.A.M.E. posted total negotiated sales of US$715 million in the last 5 years.

19 "Wonderful creativity and flexibility... this is what Filipino manufacturers have."
- Paola Navone

20 "Coming to the Philippines is like an instant magnetic affair! The Philippines has an enormous talent bank, an incredible wealth of materials and good commercial common sense!"
- George Beylerian, Material ConneXion

The Manila F.A.M.E. International is open to the public on October 26 from 11 am to 4 pm. Entrance fee is P150. Visitors below 16 not allowed.

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UFI MEMBER

Bush has firm words for North Korea, Iran

BALI, Indonesia—Just kilometers from two nightclubs that terrorists bombed last year, US President George W. Bush offered firm words for two members of his "axis of evil," dismissing North Korea's rejection of a US plan to end a nuclear stalemate and urging Iran to prove it isn't making nuclear weapons.

Under massive security, Bush spent three hours on this resort island on Wednesday, pressing his clampdown on terrorists before heading to Canberra for a meeting with Australian Prime Minister John Howard, a key ally in the war on terrorism.

"One year ago . . . Indonesia suffered the worst terrorist attack in its history, when over 200 innocent men and women lost their lives," Bush said at a news conference held just steps from the Indian Ocean, where a gunboat patrolled in the distance. "Today we pay tribute to the victims, we remember the suffering of their families, and we reaffirm our commitment to win the war on terror."

Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri pledged cooperation with the United States in the pursuit of global peace, while acknowledging that many of her citizens are suspicious of the United States.

"Despite the fact that we do not always share common perspective, we must continue to hold mutual understanding that it is to the interest of the two countries to maintain consultation and cooperation in the pursuit of global peace," Megawati said.

Bali was the fifth stop on Bush's six-nation tour of Asia and Australia.

The trip has been shadowed by the Korean nuclear crisis. On Wednesday, Pyongyang branded as "a laughing matter" Bush's offer of a written pledge from five countries not to attack if the communist nation scraps its nuclear weapons program. North Korea demands a binding treaty saying that Washington would not attack.

Despite Pyongyang's dismissal, Bush said, "We'll continue to send a very clear message to the North Koreans. The good news is that there's other nations besides America sending the message."

Bush spoke a day after Iran agreed to suspend uranium enrichment and give inspectors unrestricted access to its nuclear facilities as demanded by the UN atomic watchdog agency, a step that could ease another nuclear weapons standoff.

"The Iranians, it looks like they're accepting the demands of the free world, and now it's up to them to prove that they've accepted the demands. It's a very positive development," Bush said.

Bush's visit to Bali was intended as a gesture of support—both symbolic and financial—for Megawati's efforts to battle terrorism and curb the influence of radical, anti-Western Muslims.

Anti-American sentiment is rampant in Indonesia. Many Indonesians are upset over the US-led war in Iraq and US policy in the Middle East. While Megawati is viewed as an ally in the war against terror, she told the United Nations last month that the war created problems that it was supposed to solve. *AP*

US PRESIDENT Bush and Indonesian President Megawati stroll by the shore in Bali. REUTERS

Practitioners of democracy terrorizing world—Mahathir

YOGYAKARTA, Indonesia—Outspoken Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Wednesday said state terrorism was worse than that committed by individual groups and accused countries advocating democracy of terrorizing the world.

His comments in this central Java city came on the same day when US President George W. Bush visited the Indonesian resort island of Bali for talks with President Megawati Sukarnoputri and Muslim leaders in a bid to explain Washington's war on terror.

Mahathir, who steps down at the end of this month after 22 years in power, has been making headlines in his final days in office with statements about his belief that Jews rule the world.

That subject didn't come up in a wide-ranging 30 minute speech here as he accepted an award from a regional engineering association, but the topic of terrorism did.

Mahathir said "terror attacks are not just by irregulars acting on their own."

"Indeed, we see states launching massive retaliation, not just to curb suspected terrorists, but his family, his home, his village and his town," he said. "It would be ridiculous to think that such attacks do not terrorize the innocent. In fact, the terrorism is even greater, for it is systematic and executed with heavy weapons in the hands of trained soldiers."

"It would seem that the great exponents and practitioners of democracy believe that the way to spread the doctrine and to break down resistance is by terrorizing the world," Mahathir said.

The 78-year-old did not name the country or countries he had in mind, and declined to answer when asked later by a reporter, but he has been a frequent critic in the past of US, Australian and Israeli policies, among a number of others. *Reuters*

UN tells Israel: Dismantle security fence in W. Bank

UNITED NATIONS—The UN General Assembly called overwhelmingly for Israel to tear down its security barrier in the West Bank, describing it as a breach of international law, but the Jewish state gave a blunt refusal.

A resolution against the barrier, which Israel says is designed to prevent infiltration of Palestinian suicide bombers into its territory but the Palestinians charge is a land grab, was passed late Tuesday by a vote of 144-4, with 12 countries abstaining.

The resolution, which was opposed only by Israel and its ally the US, plus two tiny Pacific territories, is not binding. An Israeli minister swiftly said it would be ignored.

The resolution said UN member-states were particularly concerned that the route chosen by Israel for the barrier "could prejudge future negotiations and make the two-state solution physically impossible to implement and would cause further humanitarian hardship for the Palestinians."

It demanded that "Israel stop and reverse the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, which is in departure of the Armistice Line of 1949 and is in contradiction to relevant provisions of international law."

In Jerusalem, Israeli Industry Minister Ehud Olmert made it clear that his country would push ahead with the building of the controversial barrier.

"The security fence will continue to be built," said Olmert, who is No. 2 in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government, on public radio.

"We do not take into account the automatic UN majority which is systematically hostile toward us," he said. *AFP*

2 more Palestinians killed

JERUSALEM—Israeli troops shot and killed two suspected Palestinian militants in the West Bank on Wednesday, a day after Palestinians in a Gaza refugee camp buried seven people they say were killed in a deadly air attack.

The Israeli military and Palestinian witnesses offered conflicting versions of the strike in Gaza, as thousands of mourners called for revenge for the deaths.

Palestinians said Tuesday that the seven dead, including an 11-year-old boy, were all civilians killed by an Israeli missile fired into a crowd at the Nusseirat refugee camp the night before. The Army said militants and some civilians had been struck and released a video indicating there was no one on the street near the vehicle targeted in the attack.

The air strikes revived debate inside Israel over targeted killings in populated areas, and the Palestinian prime minister, in a rare criticism of Washington, complained that the United States was doing nothing to stop what he said are Israel's "ugly crimes."

Brig. Gen. Ruth Yaron, the Army spokeswoman, acknowledged there were civilian casualties, but added that "there is no doubt that the majority of those killed yesterday were terrorists." She held the militants ultimately responsible, saying they were using bystanders as human shields. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Peace by December in Sudan

NAIVASHA, Kenya—US Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Wednesday that Sudan's government and rebels had given a commitment to reach an agreement on ending their civil war by the end of December. He said that once they reach a comprehensive agreement, US President George W. Bush would invite them to come to the White House for a signing ceremony. "I can see the end is in sight, based on what I have heard today I believe that a final agreement is within the grasp of the parties," Powell told reporters at the talks' venue in the Kenyan town of Naivasha. "This is a moment of opportunity that must not be lost," Powell said. *Reuters*

Colombia nabs 25 pols linked to rebs

BOGOTA, Colombia—Police and soldiers rounded up at least 25 politicians with suspected ties to leftist guerrillas in pre-dawn raids Tuesday across one of the country's most violent provinces. Rights groups denounced the mass arrests as a government attempt to stifle opposition ahead of elections on Sunday for municipal and state offices. Hundreds of troops and police took part in the sweeps in northeastern Colombia's Arauca state, arresting the mayor of Arauca city, the president of the regional assembly, a candidate for state governor and five candidates for mayors of towns in the region. Two former Arauca governors were also arrested in Bogota. *AP*

Comatose woman rehydrated

CLEARWATER, Florida—The fight over the life of a comatose woman took a dramatic twist when a hospital began rehydrating her on orders from Florida Gov. Jeb Bush—a development experts say raises legal issues that could complicate the case even further. Terri Schiavo, whose feeding tube was removed last week, began receiving liquids intravenously Tuesday after lawmakers rushed to pass a bill designed to save her life. A judge later rejected a request by her husband to overturn Bush's order. *AP*

Malaysian missions threatened

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian diplomatic missions in the United States have increased security measures after receiving threats of reprisals for Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's recent comments that Jews ruled the world, government officials said Wednesday. One Washington-based Malaysian diplomat flew back to Kuala Lumpur last weekend as a "precautionary measure" after the embassy there received threats over the phone and via e-mails about Mahathir's comments, an official said. *AP*

Thaksin goes on vacation

BANGKOK—A weary-looking Thai premier Thaksin Shinawatra said Wednesday he would take a well-earned vacation in Britain after hosting 20 world leaders at this week's Apec summit. Thaksin was credited with a faultless performance at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) meeting which ended Tuesday but the strain of holding Thailand's biggest ever event was etched on his face. "My family and I will go to England tonight for a four- or five-day vacation," he told reporters. "I will recharge my batteries so that I can come back to work at top capacity." *AFP*

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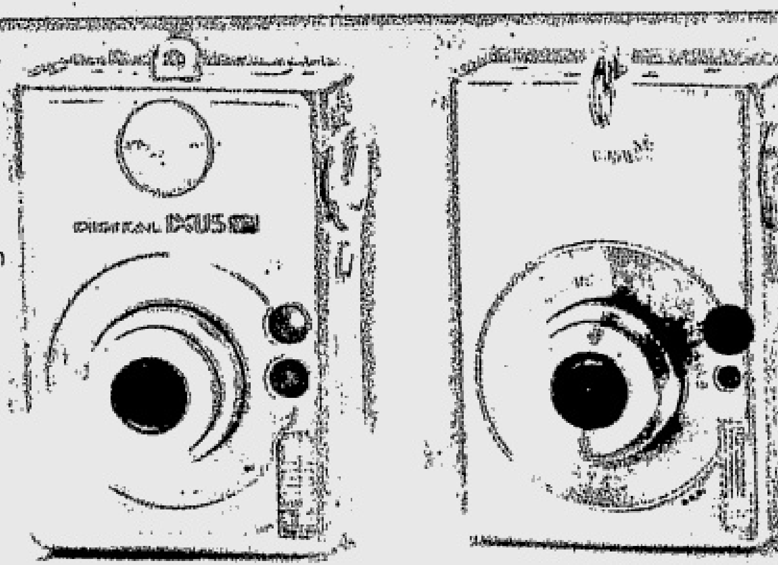

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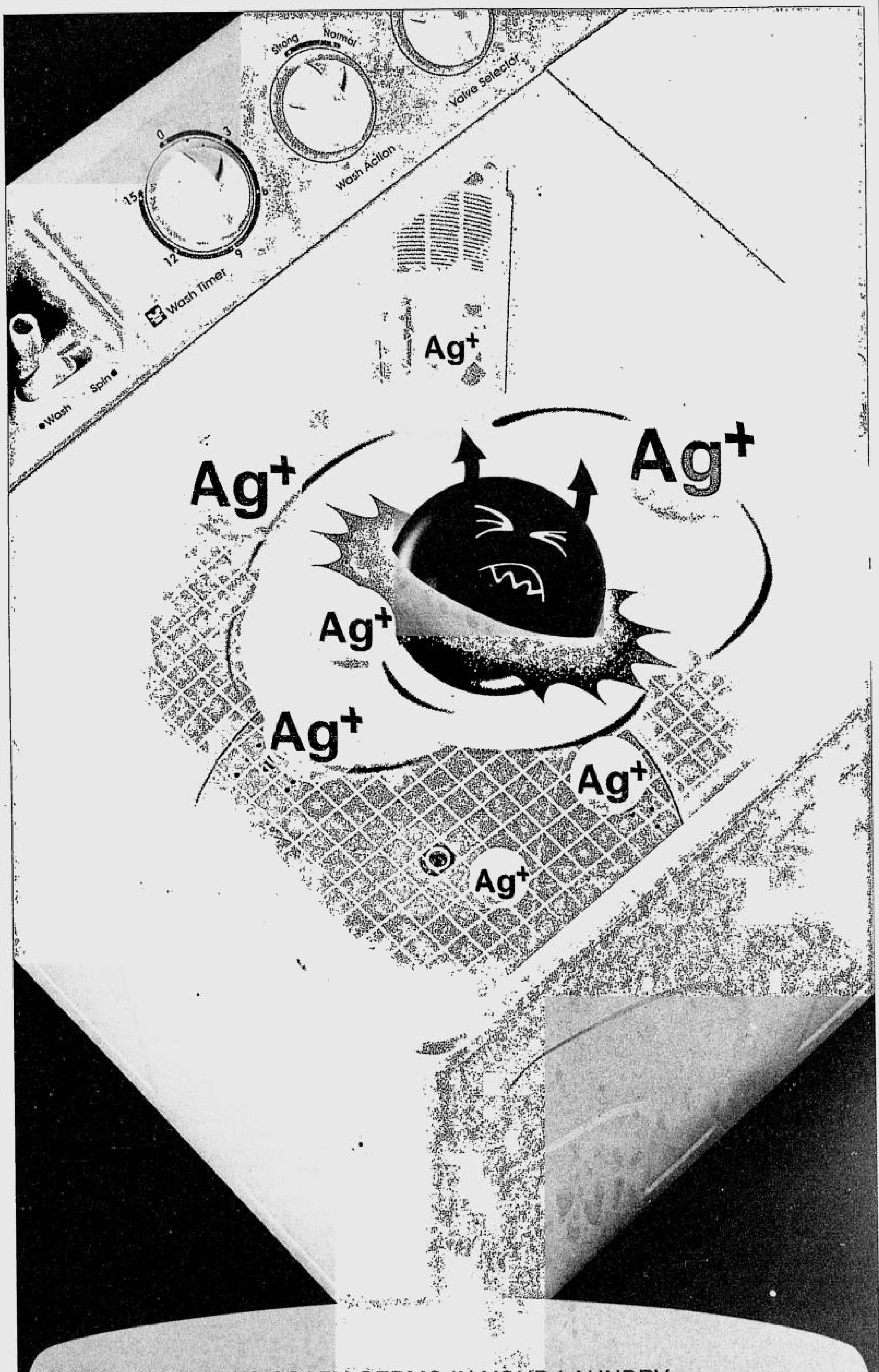

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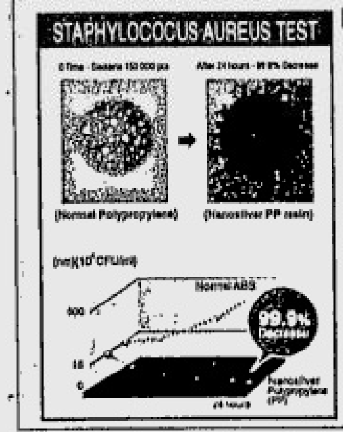

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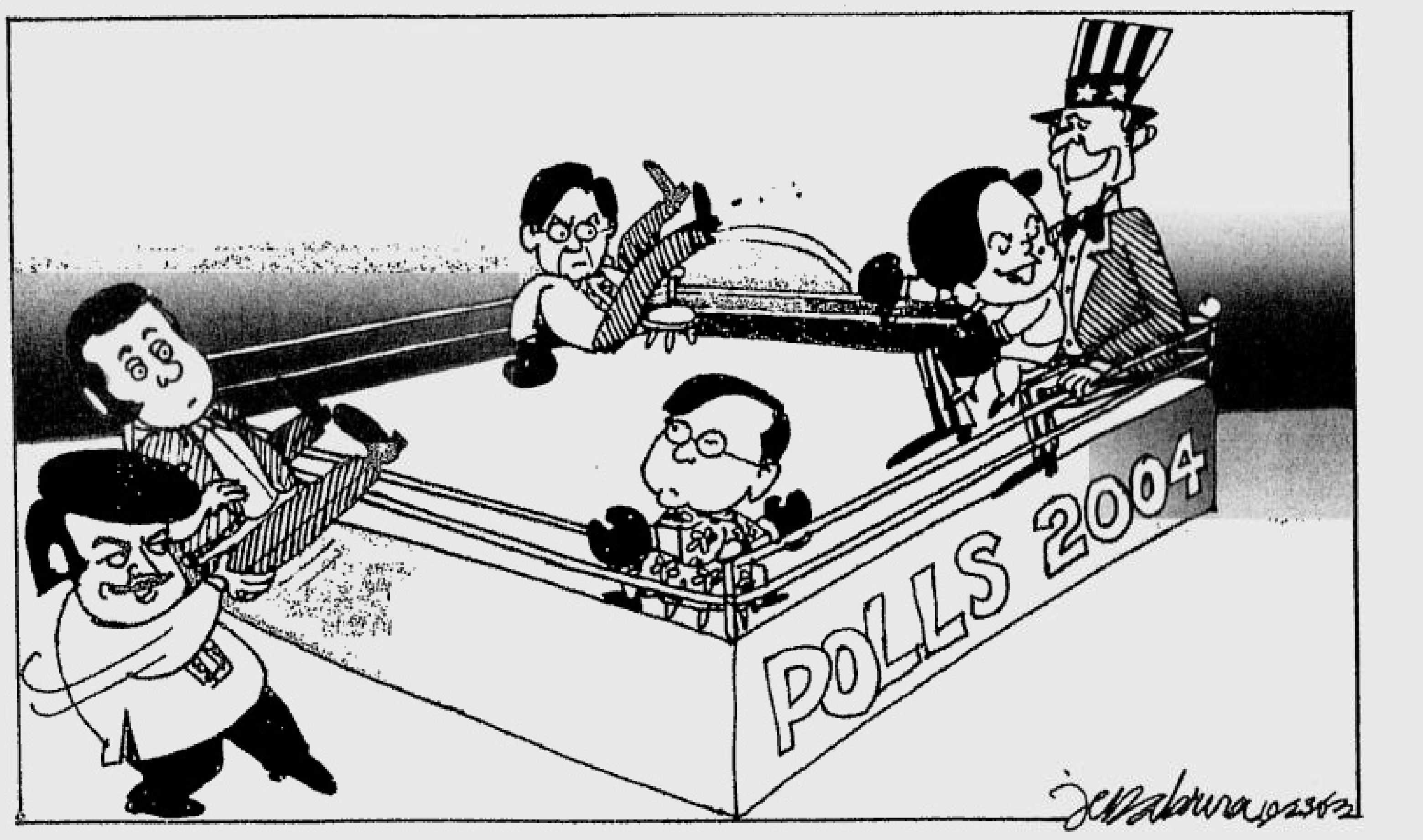


Accent on security

EDITORIAL

PACIFIC Rim leaders wrapped up their economic summit in Bangkok on Wednesday vowing tougher action against terrorism rather than coming up with a formula to revive the stalled multilateral trade talks that collapsed in Cancun, Mexico. The final communique of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit was dominated by the theme of security, reflecting the priority of US President George W. Bush, while playing lip service to the core issue of Apec, which should have been putting back on track the Cancun trade negotiations.

Echoing Bush's security agenda, which he foreshadowed in his visit to the Philippines last weekend that emphasized the close partnership between Manila and Washington in the war on terrorism, the 21 Apec leaders pledged to dismantle terrorist organizations and eliminate weapons of mass destruction after two days of talks under the shadow of a threat to peace in the Korean peninsula posed by North Korea.

The security concerns overshadowed the need to revive the world trade talks. The security priority was reflected in the communique which said that "transnational terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction pose direct and profound challenges to Apec's vision of free, open and prosperous economies."

While the Apec leaders agreed "to reenergize the negotiation process… recognizing the need to move the negotiations toward a successful conclusion," they were less precise on the steps to revive the trade talks than the intensified action against terrorism. The accent on security caused grumbling among some Apec leaders, notably Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad, who said that security concerns diluted the economic issues.

The communique fudged divisions in Apec over how to restart the Cancun talks with a generic declaration saying that Apec pledged to push for an "ambitious and balanced outcome" of the Doha round of negotiations that faltered in Cancun last month. It added that the Apec leaders "agreed to work toward the abolition of all forms of agricultural subsidies, unjustifiable export prohibitions and restrictions"—issues that provoked the breakdown of the Cancun talks.

During the summit, disagreements surfaced over what draft should be used as the starting point for the resumption of talks. Some Apec members believed that the Mexican draft was the best starting point for new negotiations, although the communique did not offer specific approaches to end the impasse.

Mahathir sounded a discordant note to the conclusion that the collapse of the Cancun talks was a setback for the multilateral trading system. According to him, the impasse was a "minor success" in that it has given developing countries an opportunity to press for an overhaul of the global trade agenda.

Mahathir said that "at Cancun, we could not agree to the agenda, simply because it wasn't our agenda… We want to be able to propose an agenda, an agenda which will be fair to rich and the poor. That should be the agenda for the World Trade Organization meeting."

Mahathir's position contradicted the US-led effort to revive the talks based on the Mexican draft, a move supported by New Zealand which warned that Mahathir's proposal to scrap the Cancun text would dash prospects for any future progress, if other developing countries would press such a demand.

The United States was less interested in pushing for the swift resumption of the Cancun talks. The impasse has given impetus to the US drive to build a network of bilateral trading agreements as a framework for trade promotion rather than a multilateral trading system.

Apec was further ruffled by Mahathir's speech in Kuala Lumpur where he charged that the Jews "ruled the world by proxy." He lashed out against the Jewish subjugation of the Muslim world, urging Muslim leaders assembled for the Organization of Islamic Conference help harness the Islamic world's collective brain power to turn the tide.

Bush was so riled by Mahathir's remarks that he pulled Mahathir aside to say that his speech "stands squarely against what I believe in." Washington officials said Mahathir's comments were "hate-filled remarks."

The Apec summit proved that trade issues were more contentious and divisive than security issues, and from that point of view, Apec as an economic forum did little to promote trade expansion.

Give gift of life to abandoned animals

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

CHRISTMAS will soon be here again and, believe it or not, the problem of some people is what to give to their friends as gifts. It is difficult to be original. Shopping for gifts is always a hassle. What do you give to a person who has everything, for example? Besides, in this age of terrorism, people are understandably squeamish about opening gift-wrapped boxes delivered to their doors. You never know if one of them contains a bomb.

Here is a suggestion: Give your friends the "gift of life," meaning your friends, through you, will give some abandoned animals the gift of life. I've already made this suggestion in this column previously, at the approach of Christmases past, but I'll suggest it again. Because there are so many pets, mostly dogs and cats, that have been abandoned by irresponsible owners, as I've written for the past two days.

Here is how you can give the "gift of life" to some abandoned animals: Donate to the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) in the name of your friends. You will be given gift cards announcing your donations in their names which you can send to your friends. We have been doing that for the last few Christmases. Or you can sponsor the feeding and care of a shelter animal for one, two or three months, again in the name of your friends.

This gift may be more meaningful and emotionally rewarding than a bottle of wine, liquor, fruitcake, necktie, etc. Certainly, God will be happier, for you are helping some of His creatures that are abused and forgotten by His other creature, man. And your donations to PAWS may soon be tax deductible.

I've mentioned PAWS also in the last two columns, but here it is again: PAWS has an animal shelter which cares for abandoned and unwanted animals. It survives mainly on donations. It provides veterinary care, food and love for them until they are adopted by caring families. You can visit the shelter at Katipunan Valley, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, Tel. No. 724-1986.

Or you can type on your computer www.pinoypets.com, a pet oriented website. You can "click to save a pet," and everytime you do so, you donate P1 to the animal shelter. The director and shelter manager is Oscar Lei. For more information regarding gift giving with PAWS, you can call Francis at 475-1688 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday, or Anna at 0917-831-5970.

In spite of the tremendous work PAWS is doing for abandoned animals (I wonder what the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is doing), it is getting peanuts from individual donors. Certainly, God would smile with pleasure if it gets help from institutional donors like Fortune Tobacco or Tanduay and La Tondeña or from the numerous NGOs here and broad. (Suggestion: For every bottle of Ginebra Kapitan, Ginebra San Miguel, or every pack of cigarettes sold, how aboar donating one centavo, through PAWS, for animal welfare. And how about companies and institutions giving the "gift of life" to abandoned animals by donating for animal welfare in the names of their friends?) And how about Congress appropriating some funds for the Animal Welfare Commission under the Bureau of Animal Industry? So far, Congress has not given it any budget.

Back to gift-giving: Remember, do not give a shelter animal as a gift. That is not a good gift. If you plan to adopt an animal, you should be a responsible pet owner. You should never plan to adopt an animal and give it later as a gift.

* * *

Correction: "Lockjaw" is the other name for tetanus, not rabies. Tetanus is characterized by spasmodic contraction and rigidity of some or all of the voluntary muscles, especially of the jaw, face and neck, hence the term "lockjaw." Rabies, on the other hand, is characterized by choking, convulsions, inability to swallow, etc. Sorry.

* * *

Isn't it hilarious how so many *sipsips* in the Macapagal administration are interpreting the speech of President George W. Bush before the joint session of Congress as an "indirect endorsement" of the candidacy of GMA? They're reading too much in the Bush speech. It is their wishful thinking coloring their interpretation. I bet these "endorsements" never entered the mind of the ghostwriter when he was writing Bush's speech.

Even assuming Bush did indirectly "endorse" her, how would the endorsement of somebody hated by the Muslim world, and who may be defeated in his reelection bid, help GMA? And how would the Filipino voters know Bush endorsed her candidacy when they never heard him say it clearly. Only the officials who will lose their jobs if GMA is not reelected saying that.

Candidates should run and be judged on their own merits, not on what some foreigner says.

* * *

Talk is very strong that Fernando Poe Jr. is ready to announce his availability for the presidency. Sen. Tito Sotto, who was tasked by the opposition to talk to him, said FPJ would make his announcement in a few hours or days. FPJ is the one "presidentiable" the administration fears. Some observers say he would poll more votes than Erap did. That's how stupid Filipino voters are.

But what if he does win? What would he do as president? Say his supporters: "*Saka na 'yon.*"

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon took First Lady Laura Bush to a cockfight.

"This is our No. 1 violent sport," he told her. And as the cocks fought and feathers and blood began to fly, he added, "They fight to the death."

"Ugh," said Laura Bush, "isn't that revolting?"

"No ma'm," replied Gordon, "that's our No. 2 violent sport."

Defend your right to vote!

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

IF you can't count, join the Comelec. That used to be the joke during Marcos' time, which wasn't entirely a joke. The results of the plebiscites and the elections during that time suggested epic levels of innumeracy. In the elections held in April 1978, Marcos' party, the KBL, scored a sweep. Ninoy Aquino, the most popular candidate, finished 22nd, while Imelda, the most unpopular one, finished first. If I recall right, that was what gave birth to the first "noise barrage" in this country, people banging pots and pans and honking horns the night after the Comelec announced the results.

Things haven't gotten better today. If you still can't count, join the Comelec. There's every bit of evidence to show the Comelec is setting up the elections next year for a mugging.

Foremost, though the least visible, is by disfranchising a horde of voters, notably first-time voters, or the youth. The Akbayan Youth and First-Time Voters Youth Network have been busy pointing this out over the last few months, but like Cassandra foretelling woe, they can't get people to listen. Catastrophes have been known to befall the deaf.

The figures are alarming. In 1998, 38.5 million were expected to register, but only 34.2 million did. Some 4.3 million were disfranchised. In 2001, 4.7 million new voters were expected to register, but only 2.1 million did. Adding the number of disfranchised in 1998 to those of 2001, 6.9 million were disfranchised. Today, more than 5 million new voters are expected to register. Adding that to the number of disfranchised in 2001, and the Comelec has to register almost 12 million new voters for next year's elections.

By no stretch of the imagination, Akbayan and Network say, can the disfranchised be thought of as not wanting to be franchised. The bulk of them is in the 18-21 age bracket, the youth. The same group we associate with idealism and self-sacrifice, the same group that is most filled with civic duty, the same group that swelled the ranks of Edsa II. What has been, and is being, disfranchised is the "integrity vote," as Akbayan and Network refers to the youth vote, with no small justification.

No, the reason the new voters were not able to register was not that they did not want to but the Comelec made it hard for them to do so. That is what the Comelec is doing again today—indeed far more so. What makes it harder for them to register is that the Comelec has given them only from Aug. 4 to the end of this month to do so. That is less three months to register 12 million new voters and validate the registration of old voters—a total of 37 million souls to be processed. While using the most primitive instruments known to man.

The INQUIRER report on the first day of registration, Aug. 4, suggests the scale of the mess the Comelec has made of things. Comelec Metro Manila director Ferdinand Rafanan admitted as much. "We had more registrants than we could manage…Before, we just had to have the application forms filled out, now we have to have the pictures of the registrants taken and their fingerprints and signatures scanned. The two machines assigned to each office (Makati and Quezon City) were insufficient."

That is a very charitable assessment. Aksyon Kabataan painted a scarier scene. Darwin Mariano, founding president, said his group got reports that in Pasay City some people were selling registration forms for P25 up to P75. They had members in Cebu who went to register but were told the Comelec office in their place was not open for registration yet. They were not told when they could register.

I myself have heard all sorts of horror stories about the difficulty of registering. One teacher in a school I talked to recently spoke of having gone to Quezon Province one weekend to register. She had to wait her turn under the sun in a long queue that wasn't moving. Someone told her the forms were being sold for P5. After several hours, she gave up and went home to check quiz papers.

The problem is not just lack of information, which is a perennial problem with the Comelec. The problem is the drastically reduced registration time, which is particular to today's Comelec. What has reduced the registration to less than three months is that Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and the six commissioners ruled in January this year to suspend registration presumably to validate voter registration nationwide as part of its modernization program. Aksyon Demokratiko immediately questioned its constitutionality (you need an amendment to suspend registration, which can be passed only by Congress), to no avail. The Comelec later reset the registration period from August to October.

It is not insignificant that Aksyon Demokratiko loudly protested it. That is Raul Roco's party, the party that believes, not without reason, it has the youth vote. The youth vote, which is bound to be most hit by Abalos' obscene haste, represents 70 percent of this country's vote. Other groups have joined the protest since then and are demanding that the registration period be extended for as long as it takes to register voters. So far Abalos has stood pat by his (whimsical) decision, citing the need for ample time to prepare for the elections. Well, preparing for elections is registering voters. No other preparation comes close to it. Particularly since he himself is the cause of the delay.

His refusal to bow down to reason, or public wrath, suggests more than incompetence. It suggests duplicity. It suggests an attempt to sabotage the integrity of next year's elections by shrinking the youth vote.

That is iniquitous. Take to the streets if you must, but, young or old, do not allow Abalos to get away with it.

(To be concluded.)

FPJ should weigh things carefully

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THERE are speculations that Fernando Poe Jr. will throw his hat into the 2004 presidential ring today, under the banner of the opposition, with Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda as his running mate. My inside info is that until now FPJ is still undecided and remains a reluctant candidate. But it appears that the faction of LDP chair Sen. Edgardo Angara has been urging him to run in the hope that the opposition, which has been having a hard time unifying, would finally come together.

FPJ should be wary of the agenda of those pushing him to run. While it's true that he remains popular, translating that into votes is another question. For one thing, his recent films such as "Pakners" did not do very well at the box office, showing that perhaps the taste of young movie-goers has changed. Moreover, surveys put him only at No. 4. *Sayang naman* if he goes down in defeat at this time of his life.

* * *

There are other things the movie king must consider. Will Eduardo Cojuangco back him up with his fortune? That's crucial. Frankly I doubt if the shrewd businessman would support FPJ, all things considered.

What about Sen. Panfilo Lacson? Will he abide by the gentlemen's agreement that whoever the opposition picks as candidate will be supported by all, including himself? Some pundits do not see him backing out of the race.

In a chat I had with him during the the state dinner for US President George W. Bush, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said he had proposed that all opposition presidential hopefuls go to the provinces to gauge the people's sentiments, in a kind of primary akin to that in the US. That way, he said, surveys will not dictate the politics in this country. That's wise thinking.

* * *

To understand the controversy surrounding Sen. Joker Arroyo's ruling as blue ribbon committee chair on the "right to privacy" invoked by Ignacio Arroyo, one has to go back to the Senate rules. Section 15 of the rules says that the first committee mentioned in the order of referral shall be the "primary committee" which shall be mainly responsible for submitting a report which should incorporate therein the appropriate recommendations of the "secondary committee" or committees. The blue ribbon is the primary committee probing the Jose Pidal issue, with the committees on constitutional amendments, electoral reforms and revision of laws chaired by Sen. Edgardo Angara, and banks, chaired by Sen. Sergio Osmeña, as secondary committees.

When Arroyo issued his controversial ruling upholding Ignacio's argument, nine others in the 19-member blue ribbon upheld him. Had Senate President Franklin Drilon been able to vote (he does not, not being a member of blue ribbon), Arroyo noted, his would have been the 11th vote. On the other hand, Angara, who is spearheading the rejection of Arroyo's ruling, succeeded in getting eight of his 14 committee members to vote for rejection. But this committee's votes are at the moment useless since the rules are specific: Arroyo's ruling is only a ruling supported by the majority in his committee, and not a committee report. Until that report is submitted, the Senate has nothing to act on.

One interesting question is why Sen. Juan Flavier cast a yes vote in both the Arroyo and Angara committees.

* * *

Two fun events will take place tomorrow and on Saturday, Oct. 25. Tomorrow will be the first one-woman exhibit of Philippine Export Zone Authority Director-General Lilia de Lima. Cutting the ribbon will be another famous "painter," former President Cory Aquino, at 6 p.m. at the Westin Plaza. Lawyer De Lima, a delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention, is best known as the very efficient Peza chief, but in this solo exhibit she reveals her entry into "the marvelous world of painting" as a "destressing activity" and a way to celebrate God's bounty, with Cory's encouragement. The ladies in Lilia's circle who paint include: Supreme Court Justice Chit Morales; government retirees Chitang Martinez and Rosie Castro; Deputy Executive Secretary Ching Vargas; and PICC Executive Director Celia Estrada Villanueva. They began painting under the tutelage of Jeffrey and UP Prof. Egay Fernandez, but more recently they have been under the "patient mentoring" of Fernando Sena. Lilia's solo exhibit is about nature "in all its beauty and vibrance" and titled "Abundance: The Natural World."

* * *

The other event will happen this Saturday, Oct. 25, at 8:30 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum. Ramon Jacinto, whose burning passion for rock 'n 'roll as a 17-year-old 40 years ago spurred the development of the biggest bands in this country, celebrates the 40 years of his station dzRJ with the "grandest reunion and musical homecoming of some of the greatest and latest performers in the past four decades." RJ promises to feature "generation-spanning, gap-bridging, foot-stomping, memories-inducing and crowd-drawing music" from 29 bands and solo performers. Among them are the ballads of Jose Marie Chan, the rock acrobatics of Joey "Pepe" Smith, the high-energy performance of Rage Band and the rap songs of Andrew E. Asia's Queen of Songs, Pilita Corrales, will do a switcheroo with Pinoy rock queen Sampaguita. Also appearing are Louie Heredia, Janet Basco, Elizabeth Ramsey, Jacqui Magno and many others. Bands will render numbers from various decades: RJ and the Riots from the '60s; Hotdog and Boyfriends from the '70s; Pido and Take 1 from the '80s; Andrew E. from the '90s; and Barbie's Cradle and Moonstar 88 for the new millenium. Tickets are available at all ticketnet outlets.

Looming polls disaster

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF the Commission on Elections is to have its way, new voters, that is, Filipinos who turned 18 after the 2001 elections or who will turn 18 by May next year, have only until next week to register if they want to vote in the 2004 polls. The Comelec is also urging all other registered voters to "validate" their registration by trooping to their local Comelec office to have their photos and thumbprints recorded on the poll body's new-fangled computerized "data capture" machines.

Friends who've taken time to register or validate, however, complain of nightmare scenarios: unruly crowds, kilometers-long queues and general confusion. A friend who was registering for a change of residence tells me incredulously that he spent the three days trying to register with Comelec but was always driven away by the crowds.

Now, if the registration process is marked by this much chaos, can you imagine what will happen next May? Multiply the scenario a thousand times come election day! Is it too late to save the country from an electoral disaster?

Gus Lagman says something may yet be done to avert this catastrophe. He has written a letter, titled "Unsolicited Advice to Comelec," which he said he will also be furnishing the Supreme Court and the chairs of the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee, Sen. Edgardo Angara and Rep. Jesli Lapuz.

His "advice" covers the three phases of the voting modernization program: registration, counting and canvassing of votes, and transmission.

* * *

HERE'S how Lagman believes the Comelec may yet save the day.

On the Voters Validation System (VVS), Lagman urges the Comelec to "announce to the public and to all Comelec registrars, very clearly and in no uncertain terms, that those who have registered and voted in at least one of the last two electoral exercises need not validate their registration."

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos admitted as much to Congress last August, says Lagman.

The poll body should instead "concentrate on the registration of new voters and the reactivation of the registration of those who failed to vote in at least one of the last two elections," says Lagman, an important process that was delayed "because the Comelec wants to validate the previous registration of some 34 million voters as well" which is not achievable.

Lagman also urges the poll body to extend the registration of new voters to 120 days before election day, saying "it is the least the Comelec can do after suspending the system of continuous registration for several months, to the disadvantage of new voters."

The Comelec should also stop accepting delivery of more Data Capturing Machines, says Lagman, arguing that since there was no law supporting this phase of the electoral modernization program, the machines' purchase was illegal. Lagman argues that a "house-to-house verification campaign by NGOs equipped with Comelec-supplied voters lists by precincts, followed by a purging process, is sufficient to cleanse the database of voters."

Comparisons of the "captured" fingerprints would also be useless, asserts Lagman, "unless all voters in contiguous geographical areas validate their registration," a prospect that is of doubtful success and thus of "little value." As for "flying voters," all they need to do is avoid validation, since they will be allowed to vote anyway. The validation process is not just a waste of the people's money, adds Lagman, but also a way of disfranchising first-time voters. By design?

* * *

LAGMAN says there's also a need to cancel the P1.3-billion contract that the Comelec has signed with Mega Pacific e-Solutions Inc. "If there's still time, rebid the project…otherwise, prepare for a manual election process."

Mega-Pacific was not even qualified to bid for the contract of providing the counting machines, Lagman notes, and the prototype it submitted for testing even failed to meet standards. "Worse," he says, "of the first 30 units they delivered, nine failed the tests. It's scary to gamble nationwide elections on such unreliable equipment."

He also urges the Comelec to scrap the P300-million transmittal project, which is also not part of the original modernization law, but could also confuse the public.

Lagman warns: "If the counting machines were to be networked, the Comelec could be accused of manipulating the results as they are being transmitted to the Comelec national office, or worse, the Comelec could be accused of altering the computer programs stored inside the counting machines."

* * *

OF the three phases of modernization as now envisioned by the Comelec, only Phase II (counting and canvassing) is supported by law, stresses Lagman. If only the poll body chose to concentrate on computerizing the counting and canvassing of votes, this alone, he says, "would have provided a solution to the very long process of counting and canvassing in Philippine elections. It would also practically eliminate *dagdag-bawas*. But, unfortunately, the Comelec made bad decisions in the selection of the supplier and acceptance of the machines. What this demonstrates is that the Comelec cannot be trusted to run the more complicated and more crucial election process."

Lagman, it must be noted, has worked closely with the Comelec especially in the formulation of the bidding rules and technical specifications for the modernization program. He is no stranger to elections, having headed the Systems Group of Namfrel's Operation Quick Count since the Batasan elections of 1984. In my book, this makes what he has to say about the conduct of the elections not just credible, but also a matter of national concern.

Small arms, wrong hands (2)

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

SAID Mikhail Kalashnikov last year: "I would prefer to have invented a machine that people could use and that would help farmers with their work—for example, a lawnmower."

Kalashnikov is the godfather of assault rifles. If I am not mistaken, Kalashnikovs are those powerful Armalites with the curved magazine casings and the "K" in AK stands for Kalashnikov. Total production of this deadly weapon is estimated to be between 70 and 100 million, comprising up to 80 percent of the total number of assault rifles in the world.

Last week, the earth-shaking report, "Shattered Lives: The Case for Tough International Arms Control," was released by Oxfam, Amnesty International and International Action Network on Small Arms. This was the result of a study undertaken worldwide.

The numbers are by themselves staggering and mind-boggling. But heart-rending are the stories about lives of individuals and communities that have been victimized and rendered helpless by the proliferation of these so-called small arms. The human cost cannot be simply quantified. As the report says, more than 500,000 civilians are estimated to die each year on average from the misuse of conventional arms or one person every minute.

So where are all these weapons coming from? Chapter 4 of "Shattered Lives" tackles the arms bazaar. The report says that "from 1988 to 2001, the USA, the UK and France earned more income from arms sales to developing countries than they gave in aid." It does not take much to believe that. They give some, they kill some.

Says the report: "The lack of arms controls allows some to profit from the misery of others. While international attention is focused on the need to control weapons of mass destruction, the trade in conventional weapons continues to operate in a legal and moral vacuum. More and more countries are starting to produce small arms, many with little ability or will to regulate their use. Permanent UN Security Council members—USA, UK, France, Russia and China—dominate the world trade in arms. Most national arms controls are riddled with loopholes or barely enforced. Key weaknesses are lax controls on the brokering, licensed production and 'end use' of arms. Arms get into the wrong hands through weak controls on firearm ownership, weapons management, and misuse by authorized users of weapons."

I am shocked to learn that the arms trade is like no other, operating outside the jurisdiction of the World Trade Organization, the parameters of the UN Conference on Trade and Development and the bounds of the arms non-proliferation regime. Control, the report says, is left to individual governments, which may be unwilling or unable to ensure responsible practices.

Is there a solution? Yes, there is, there are. One step in the right direction was the signing of the "Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers" by 52 of the world's most powerful arms-exporting states 10 years ago. However, the report notes, the practices of these states—all participants in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)—fall far short of their agreed benchmark.

And not so long ago, the "European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports" stipulated that arms should not be exported to countries where there is a clear risk that they might be used for internal repression, external aggression or where serious violations of human rights have occurred. Sadly, this has not been followed.

But since 2001, the report notes, OSCE countries have been developing "best practice" guidelines. There still are no binding laws and rules that would make it obligatory for arms-exporting states to respect human rights or humanitarian law when authorizing the transfer of arms to other countries.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said: "(Small arms and light) weapons have prolonged or aggravated conflicts, produced massive flows of refugees, undermined the rule of law and spawned a culture of violence and impunity. In short, the excessive accumulation and illicit trade of small arms is threatening international peace and security, dashing hopes for social and economic development, and jeopardizing prospects of democracy and human rights."

There have been two steps forward in international control of small arms since 2000, the report says, both addressing illicit trade. The "UN Firearms Protocol" has been signed by 52 states but ratified only by three, so it is not expected to be enforced soon. In July 2001, a "Program for Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects" was agreed upon but it still has to be followed by reviews and consensus.

An Arms Trade Treaty is being proposed, and if widely accepted, says the report, will establish a firm and unambiguous international mechanism to regulate and prohibit the sale of weapons where these would pose clear risks. It will lay down principles based upon existing responsibilities of states under international standards.

But all these will have to have impact on the national and local scenes. Governments ought to realize their duties to protect and not maim their citizens, to prevent the proliferation of these killing machines that look like toys.

Said Hassan Odha, a development program officer from Kenya: "Small arms are destroying our lives and livelihoods and they are serving no good. Poverty levels here are at its highest, arms infiltration is worsening our poverty. Without arms we would be very happy just left with our spears to look after our animals."

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Power of silence

MANY times in our lives, we stop and ponder over the things happening around us. We keep silent for a couple of minutes and look around and notice something new, something amiss, something bizarre. But this passes after a short time.

Imagine if you were not allowed to talk for a week, without a chance to voice out your opinion. Some may look at this as a form of punishment, but to some who have had experience it think of it as an opportunity.

YOUNG BLOOD

Cris Jude Lacsican

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

Why do we talk or respond? Mainly because we want to be heard. By talking, we are able to pass on to others our ideas and thoughts.

I am neither a woman of silence nor a vociferous one. I am somewhere in between. I listen, then I react—and vice versa. Either way, I listen and still react! People who know me very well would have a hard time imagining me not reacting to something or anything, whether positively or negatively.

A week ago, I underwent laryngeal surgery which required me to have absolute voice rest for seven days. My doctor ordered me not to make any sound.

The first day was complete agony. My co-workers were busy talking about anything and everything, and I wanted to react so badly that my thoughts were running wild in my head. I had to grip the sides of the hospital bed or hold on to my mouth to keep myself from uttering a single word. Frustrating! When I realized that it was almost not working, I changed my tactic: I tried not to listen and thought of something else.

My mind was full of thoughts waiting to be expressed verbally. I had a hard time grouping and sub-dividing them in my head. On Monday next week, this is what I am going to tell them. Tuesday, I'll inform them about this. Wednesday, I'll rebut that statement. And so on and so forth. I had to get away!

I went to my hometown, Dumaguete. It's a small city on the island of Negros, with a population of about 100,000. At long last, I'm going to have peace of mind, I thought.

I stayed in my room throughout my first day back home, watching TV and eating like I would never see food again. I ate avocado with red sugar, *ginataang* shells, fresh *lumpia*, grilled pork, banana cue, *humba* and every kind of chips I could find in the *sari-sari* store. Thank God, I was on a hypoallergenic diet or else I would have eaten more.

Being conscious about my weight, I decided to control my appetite and went strolling on the beach after a teeny-weeny bite of *suman* with *mangga* the following morning. I sat down and allowed my feet to touch the seawater. It was cold but it felt nice. Thoughts were running wild in my head again. While contemplating what I was going to do, I decided to try to really listen and not react at all. I thought I could do that for a couple of minutes, hours perhaps, but days? I didn't really know. But I thought it was worth a try.

I started it with my family. I listened and accepted what they were all saying. The usual family matters: studies, future plans, business, delinquents, health, birthdays and other special occasions, money.

Then I did the same thing with my friends and our neighbors.

I learned so much in those four days—even from the twitching of the nose of my grandma when she was annoyed. Now, I can easily tell when my brother wants to call his girlfriend or better yet the cool diversion of my chubby, youngest cousin when he wants attention. I now understand them better than ever.

And I thought I knew them very well before. Somehow, I felt that I didn't belong with them anymore.

But there were so many things I didn't know about them. Being silent helped me realize how important they are to me. At times we are so occupied about things we consider important and neglect some details that are equally important.

Last night, as I was opening my mouth soundlessly and marvelling at the wonderful voice of Gary Valenciano and some of the stars on stage during a concert, I again realized that listening is indeed powerful.

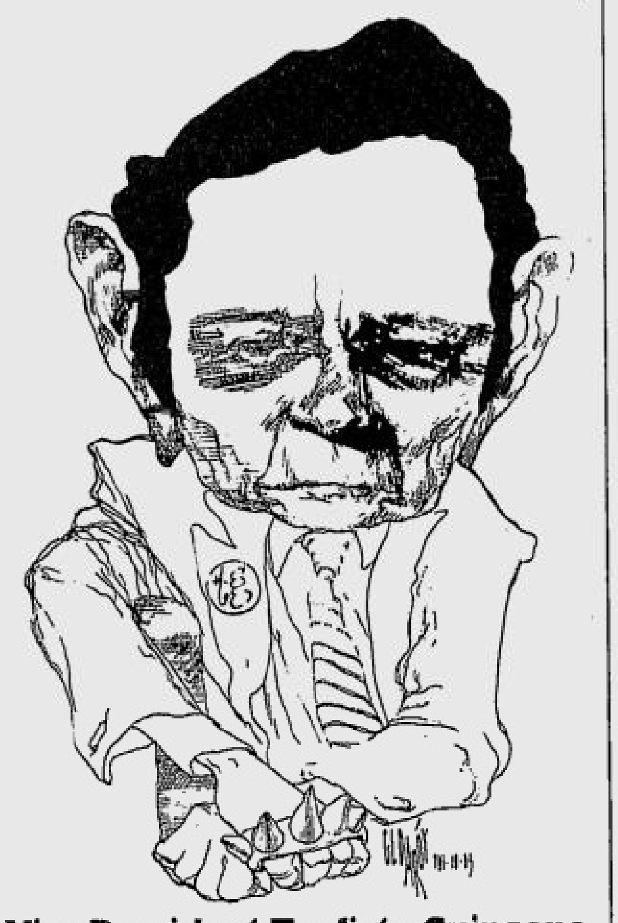
Listening without any thought in your head actually allows you to understand things fully. Having no pre-conceived ideas about the topic on hand enables you to know what the other person is really thinking. Besides mastering his mannerisms or facial expressions, it gives you a better point of view. Silence has the power to make you understand and know more. You don't have to agree with the speaker. You just have to know what his opinion is. Now isn't that power over somebody? Like they used to say, knowledge is power!

I am not encouraging you to have laryngeal surgery so that you will have the opportunity to listen better. What was I thinking? I didn't have to say that, did I? But I am encouraging everyone to keep their mouths shut when somebody is talking and listen to him. Somehow, you'll actually learn something.

Try it.

Cris Jude Lacsican, 23, is a management trainee at JG Summit Holdings Inc.

IN THE NEWS



Vice President Teofisto Guingona

Education: the root of national problems

OUR troubles and problems are rooted in the messy system of education. Instead of encouraging self-reliance, scientific outlook and independent critical thinking, most of our schools, colleges and universities still teach that the frontiers of knowledge are closed. That it is more important to resort to prayer and faith rather than to thinking hard and working even harder. That love of superstition is more important than love of country. Thus, in order to earn a college diploma, one must only thoughtlessly submit to authority and tolerate the social mess rather than honestly and courageously develop the love of fellow citizens and love of country. Indeed, our college graduates have yet to play a major role in alleviating exploitation, softening brutality and ennobling the Filipino character for the purpose of establishing common human decency for the sake of a sane and healthy society.

Look at the college graduates in charge of the mess in government, in charge of the mess in church, in charge of the mess in trade and commerce, in charge of the mess in the military, in charge of the mess in everything else that's keeping us poor and backward. But look deeper at the men and women with college degrees in charge of the mess in the schools, colleges and universities. They are growing not as educational institutions, but expanding only as commercial enterprises. Power of money is more important than the power of knowledge. In this country, we are all born innocent, not corrupt. We are made corrupt by "education."

—POCH SUZARA,
chair, High School Dropout
Association of the Philippines,
poch.suzara@mailcity.com

Levistes support livelihood center

ALLOW me to call your attention to the news item, "Firm opposes port livelihood center in Batangas," (PDI, 09/22/03) Please be informed that two weeks ago, the firm you mentioned already signed a "no objection" document for the construction of the livelihood center.

The said news item, I am sorry to say, was grossly inaccurate. The reference to Sen. Loren Legarda and her husband, former Gov. Antonio Leviste, as allegedly heading a firm opposing the construction of the Batangas Port Livelihood Center (BPLC) was both untrue and unfair.

As a matter of fact, it was Leviste who helped push through the BPLG project by convincing the board of directors of the Philippine Port Authority to approve it. As governor of Batangas province from 1972 to 1980 and a native as well, Leviste is naturally concerned with the development and progress of the province. As a director of the PPA, he convinced the board to pass a resolution approving the project.

As for the role of the Batangas Port Planners Development Inc. (BRRDI) in opposing the construction of the center, it was unfair and inaccurate to declare as the said news item did, that Legarda and Leviste "headed" the BPPDI. I was reliably informed that both Leviste and Legarda are no longer connected with the firm as they had sold their shares to FF Cruz a long time ago, long before the project was conceptualized. Legarda, however, continues to be listed as an "incorporator" because an "incorporator" remains as "an incorporator of record" even if she or he had already left the firm.

Thus, there is no conflict of interest attaching Legarda and Leviste arising from their present positions and their former relations with the BPPDI. As a matter of fact, I am deeply grateful to Leviste for his assistance in pushing for the completion of the livelihood center which would benefit the people of Batangas province and city in terms of employment and income.

—HERMILANDO I. MANDANAS,
governor, Batangas City

Can we still trust GMA?

WE have another case of "traditional politicians" going back on their word. In this case, it's our incumbent President. For months, we kept on hearing her announce "officially" that she will not be running in the 2004 elections. Finally, however, she announced that she will run. Where now is her word of honor? On several occasions in the past, we have seen her make *volte face* decisions. What can we expect from a leader who keeps changing her mind, for reasons that are clearly personal and not for the country's welfare? If this is how she values her *palabra de honor*, can we expect her to abide by her promise that she will not be using the vast authority of her position in order to gain a major advantage over her opponents in the coming elections?

—LEONARDO LAGDAMEO, Pili,
Camarines Sur,
ljoeylag@adnu.edu.ph

The road to peace in Mindanao

I AM glad that the Joint Coordinating Committees on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) of the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front are really bent on pursuing to bring peace and progress to Mindanao. Both are giving their best to fully implement the guidelines being set in preparation for the peace talks.

Armed engagements involving the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the MILF have become very few, proving that the GRP-MILF Ceasefire agreement is holding its ground. I hope this will continue. I hope the series of meetings between said committees will continue to further enhance confidence-building between the two groups and to resolve more irritants to the peace process.

Kudos to the government for showing its sincere commitment to lasting peace.

—LOUELA VALLE-CRUZ,
Taguig, Metro Manila

Leveling but raising the field of political contention

NOW that President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared her bid for a presidential mandate, Lakas-CMD, the ruling party, should set the tone in political maturity reflective of our evolving democratic processes.

Geographical parity, issues and performance should be the only factor in considering candidates for a national slate. Those with decided media exposure and mileage, as media news talents, have natural competitive advantage but these should never be the gauge and benchmark of those seeking political office.

Geographic parity and representation should not be ignored by party leaders who might be swayed by manipulated surveys favoring the alumnus of a radio-TV broadcast network. The power of media in shaping the mind of the masses to fit their agenda is obvious.

All elected officials must focus on their covenant to principally act as public servants and not as media and movie celebrities, journalists, newscasters, actors and actresses, etc.

Enough is enough. If lawyers are prohibited to appear in court for their clients, once elected, there must be a law prohibiting the practice of other professions once elected.

For instance, if they are columnists, they should stop writing for newspapers. If they are TV anchors and comedians, they should be prohibited from doing this during their terms, under pain of severe sanctions.

Three things must be done immediately (a) Congress should introduce a bill curbing all media activities, not related directly to the official functions of an elected official; (b) Political parties should align their campaign on issues and performance and those candidates chosen in the national ticket should be measured against public performance and their public position on national issues, not merely sound bytes for media consumption.

Survey and opinion polls are internal tools to chart a campaign direction. Publicizing the same in media reveals motives beyond the purpose for which it was undertaken in the first place.

—VIC DEL FIERRO,
vdelfierro@hotmail.com

Sin taxes

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IF you're a smoker and are off to France any time soon, better make sure you bring cigarettes from here. As of this week, a pack of 20 cigarettes in France costs, on the average, 5.40 euros. At P80 to euro, that's P432 a pack.

The new prices represent a 20 percent increase over the old ones, and are due to new taxes imposed by the French government. The response has been swift and furious, with tobacco shop owners going on strike last Monday to protest the increases.

It'll be interesting to see what happens next. Smokers and the tobacco shop owners say the French government is thoughtless, ready to do anything to raise more money. The government insists it is doing this more for public health reasons, a way of encouraging more smokers to quit.

This battle in France offers us the latest example of how one aspect of public policy—taxes—may be used for or against public health. More specifically, we're looking at sin taxes, a term that is itself rather odd in the way it's defined. Sin taxes are those imposed on what a society might call "vices"—alcohol and tobacco products being the most common. But sometimes the "sin" aspect is defined to include any luxurious indulgence, for example, sleek watches or cars.

From time to time, we get talk about increasing sin taxes in the Philippines but nothing ever seems to come out of it. We have some of the cheapest prices in the world when it comes to tobacco and alcohol. At a seminar on tobacco use held in Taiwan last year, Prof. Ted Chen reported that it takes an average Indian 77 minutes of work to buy a pack of cigarettes. For the Indonesian, it takes 62 minutes; the mainland Chinese, 56 minutes; the Singaporean and the British, 40 minutes; and the American, 20 minutes. I did some quick calculations for the Philippines: if someone earns P300 a day, he would need to work 36 minutes to pay P24 for a pack of cigarettes.

In other Asian countries, even the poorer ones, the government does impose hefty taxes on tobacco products and liquor. A bottle of cheap Mekong whiskey in Thailand, bought from a street stall, would cost about P100. A *lapad* (of similar size) of local gin or rum in Manila would cost less than P20.

Cheap, too cheap. But for a poor Filipino household, these "cheap" products can represent a tremendous drain on their budgets. For example, even in a cheap bar or beer garden, a man who takes four beers and finishes two packs of cigarettes would be spending about half a day's wages. That's presuming of course he has a job… and that he doesn't move on from the drinking to other hanky-panky.

Economists talk about "price elasticity," the degree to which a product's price can be raised without losing too many buyers. Mainly because cigarettes are so addicting, smokers will continue to smoke even if prices soar. Or, they'll find ways to beat the prices. French smokers are already talking about how they'll get their cigarettes in Belgium, where cigarette prices are lower. This has happened in the past when Canadian smokers bought cigarettes in bulk and cheaper in the United States.

Filipinos won't have this advantage of border crossings; we'd have to swim over to, say, Indonesia, for cheaper cigarettes.

Sin taxes are imposed because governments know that entire societies pay for the consequences of the vices. We're talking here of a long list of adverse effects. These include the medical costs of treatment for smokers (as well as "second-hand" smokers or those chronically exposed to other people's smoke) and alcoholics. Then there are the social costs of these vices, from the battering of wives by alcoholic husbands, to the children who are deprived of basic needs because their parents squander meager earnings on smoking and drinking.

I do get bothered by the idea of sin taxes being imposed on smokers and drinkers, because in a sense we're penalizing the victims. People don't just start smoking and drinking because of a whim; they do so because society says such activities are all right. Advertising in fact promotes smoking and drinking as chic and classy, and the irony is that the rich, who can easily afford these vices, are cutting back as they become more health conscious, while it's the poor who still think it's a sign of "class" to smoke and drink.

Which is why I think controls need to be imposed on the sources of the demand for these products, on advertising for example, or on gross revenues of the tobacco and cigarette manufacturers. The revenues should, in turn, be allocated for social services, especially for health. I'm not sure about the exact rate, but in Thailand, a certain percentage of taxes paid by cigarette and alcohol firms go to a health non-profit organization which then uses the money to educate the public on healthier living.

We need a similar scheme in the Philippines. Besides producing counter-ads to smoking, drinking and junk foods, revenues from sin taxes and sin companies could go to supporting smoking cessation programs and treatment for alcoholics.

A parting thought: P432 for a pack of cigarettes in France works out to P21.60 a stick. If you can get 20 puffs from a stick, that's P1 a puff. Well, huff and puff while you can. Many people don't realize the greatest health risk from cigarettes isn't cancer but respiratory problems. A peso a puff is nothing compared with what you'd have to pay in medical costs as you grapple with emphysema and breathing difficulties.

Sorry for the scare tactics, but, *c'est la vie.*

Canon

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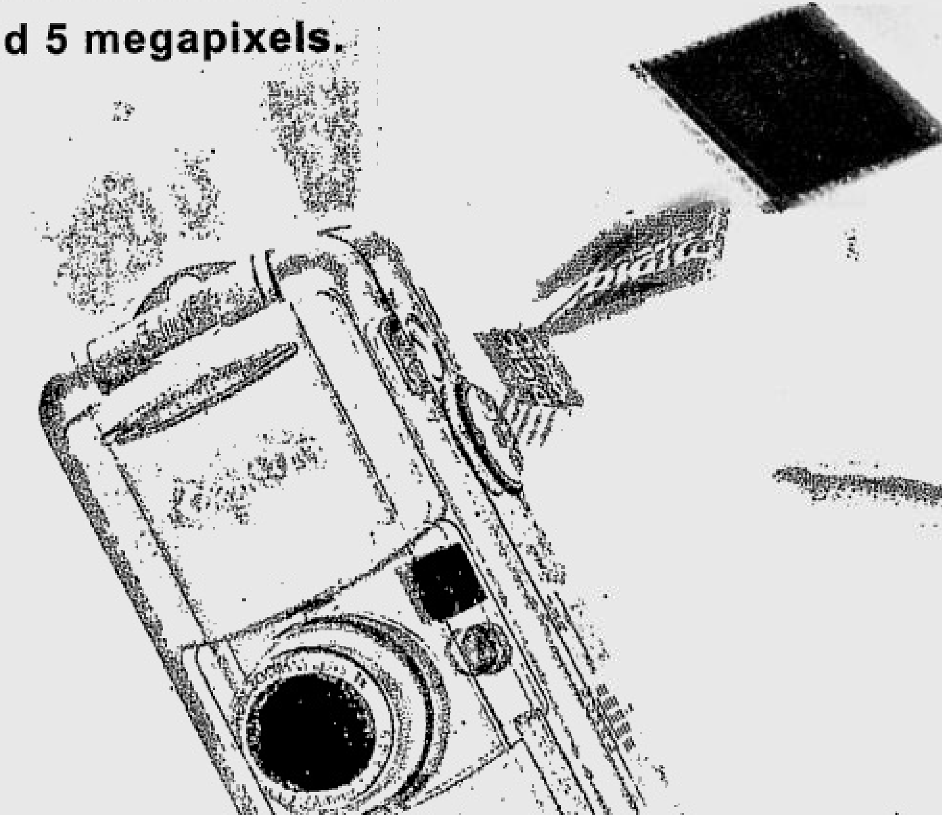

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Project draws battle lines for Cagayan pols

By Estanislao Caldez
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUGUEGARAO CITY—An income-generating project proposed by the Cagayan provincial government has drawn the political battle lines and possible alliances in the province for next year's elections.

This came as various local political camps took sides when the allegations of bribery involving the proposed Cagayan Economic Enterprise (CEE) project surfaced during a provincial board session on Tuesday.

The CEE, created through a provincial ordinance, was pushed by Gov. Edgar Lara to generate funds for the provincial government's projects.

Under the CEE, certain government offices and departments and their assets would be converted into income-generating agencies.

As part of the project, the old provincial hospital building in the city will be converted into a three-story Town Center that will be funded with P205 million.

To fund the conversion, the provincial government will float bonds payable in seven years. The local government will use its Internal Revenue Allotment share as collateral.

But accusations of corruption among board members came up during the board session on Tuesday when the bond flotation scheme was approved on a 7-4 vote.

Board Member Odi Fausto, who is identified with the camp of Cagayan Rep. Manuel Mamba, accused those who approved the bond flotation scheme of accepting bribe and of overpricing heavy equipment bought by the provincial government.

Fausto also accused the other board members of committing to an "erroneous investment."

But Board Member Estrella Fernandez snapped back at Fausto, saying she voted according to her conscience. She asked the board to strike out Fausto's allegations from the minutes of the session because these were "insult(s) on the integrity of the board."

Pensioners tell Gloria: Sack head of GSIS or lose votes

NAGA CITY—It's state pensioners' turn this time. Like government employees, a large group of retired employees has also called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to oust Winston Garcia as head of the Government Service Insurance System, or they also would not vote for her in the 2004 elections.

"We are joining our colleagues in the government service in calling for the ouster of Garcia," Sandy Hubilla, national vice president for GSIS affairs of the Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP), told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview. "We want GMA to oust him or we will not also vote for her in the 2004 elections."

Hubilla, who called up the INQUIRER about their group's decision, said government retirees, too, are not happy with the way Garcia is running the state pension fund.

As head of the government retirees group, he said he once wrote Garcia informing him about the plight of the aged pensioners but did not get any favorable response.

Under Garcia's leadership, Hubilla claimed, aged pensioners are complaining about the mere five-percent increase in their pensions for this year instead of the mandated 10-percent annual increase.

"How can we live with this (increase), especially now that prices of commodities are very expensive?" he asked. "How can we still buy our medicines?"

He also blamed Garcia for the suspension of their ATM (Automated Teller Machine) facility in receiving their monthly pensions.

They were issued bank passbooks instead, according to Hubilla.

"Aged and sick pensioners are having a hard time withdrawing their money using these passbooks. We still have to bear with the hassle of withdrawing from a teller. What about those from far-flung areas and those who are already bedridden? This is really a burden on our part," Hubilla, 71, said.

He also belittled the P10,000-emergency loan granted to members, after government employees called for Garcia's ouster, as mere *consuelo de bobo*.

"What can you possibly do with that amount?" he asked.

It was also only under Garcia's time that government employees went to the streets in nationwide protests against a GSIS head, according to Hubilla.

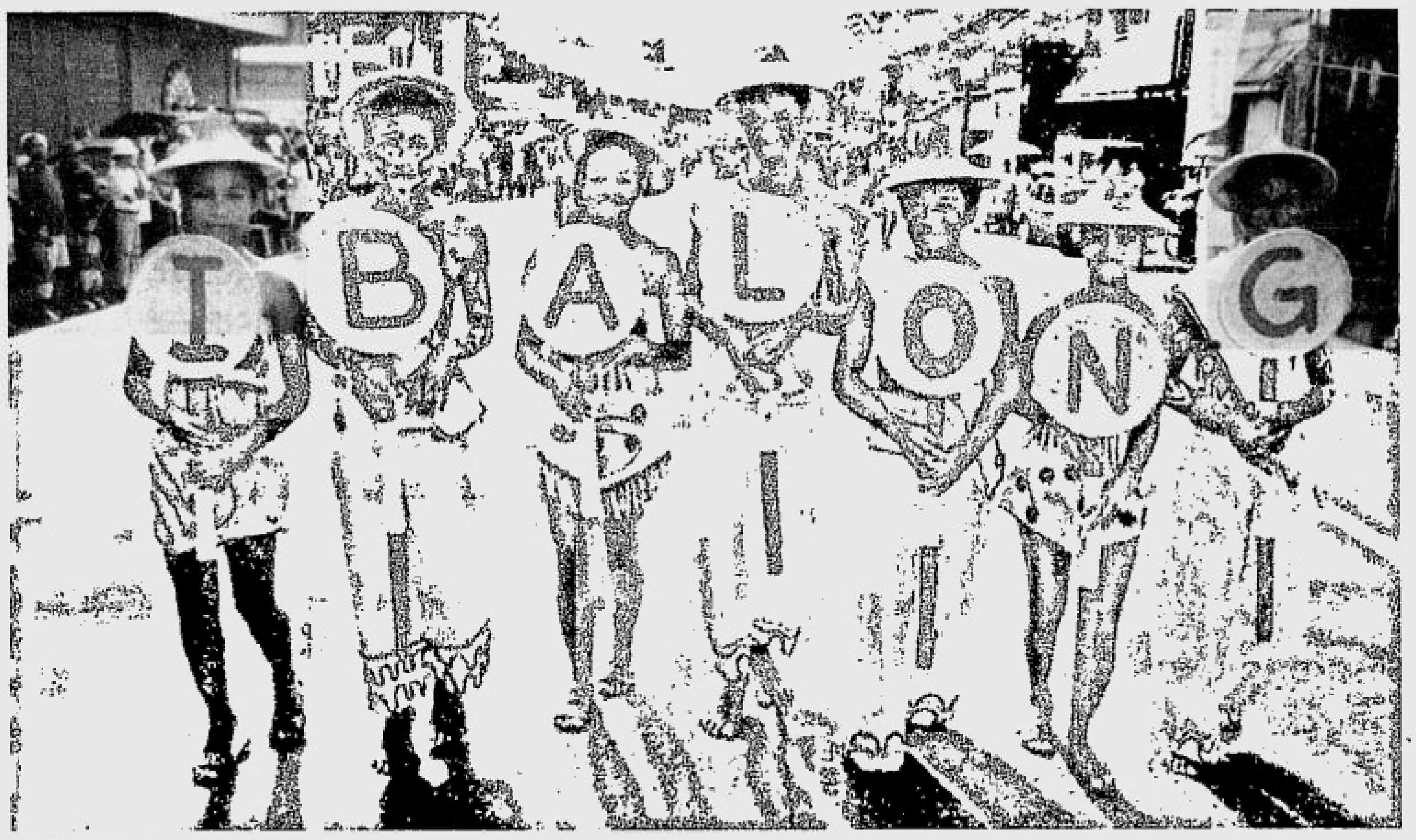
Hubilla's group, which claims a membership of at least 500,000 retired government employees nationwide, also appealed to the President to reconsider her earlier decision to retain Garcia as GSIS head.

"It is really disappointing," Hubilla told the INQUIRER in another telephone interview at his residence in Pili town, some 15 kilometers from this city. "Nobody should be indispensable."

"Maybe it was because GSIS shelled out millions of pesos for the construction of the Diosdado Macapagal Highway," he added, referring to the P1-billion loan granted by the GSIS to the Public Estates Authority for the construction of the controversial Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, which he believed was a pet project of the President.

"She must only be returning the favor." Garcia has issued an apology for the delay in the release of benefits, but government workers remained restive.

Ms Macapagal initially refused to sack Garcia, saying she was giving Garcia time to explain his side without a "Damocles sword" over his head. *Alan Pelayo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



BICOL FEAST
NINO JESUS ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Street performers spell out the word Ibalong written on bamboo plates during the celebration of the Bicol region's biggest festival. The word Ibalong translates to mean the entire Bicol region. Various organizations and schools sent delegations to transform the region's streets into party sites.

Wife of slain judge assails police failure to solve case

MATI, Davao Oriental—The wife of slain judge Eugenio Valles has criticized police authorities for their alleged failure to solve the death of her husband saying they were "sleeping on their job."

Mila Garcia Valles said that for nearly two years after her husband's death, the police have continued to be mum about the development of their investigation.

"(They) did not even bother to give me an update on the murder of my husband," she said.

The judge was jogging along the national highway in nearby Nabunturan town in April 2002 when a lone gunman attacked and shot him at point blank.

Judge Valles died on the spot.

There were speculations his death was related to the controversy then hounding the Mt. Diwata gold-rush area that involved big-time and small-scale miners.

At the time of his death, Judge Valles was handling cases involving disputes in the mining area.

Mrs. Valles said investigators only talked to her once and that was the day her husband was killed.

"Since then, they never showed up again. I do not even have an idea if they managed to identify the killer or the mastermind," she said.

Mrs. Valles said she fear her husband's death would only become another figure in the long list of unsolved crimes in the country because it was apparent the police were not doing their job.

"The killers or the mastermind in the killing (of my husband) will go unpunished and that's alarming," she said.

Judge Erasto Salcedo of the Regional Trial Court Branch 31 in Tagum City expressed the same fear.

Salcedo said the still unresolved assassination of Judge Valles "is quite disturbing."

"Because the failure of our law enforcers to solve such a heinous crime may create a perception that assassins can mow down judges with ease and impunity," Salcedo said.

Mrs. Valles called on President Macapagal-Arroyo "to help us resolve the murder of my husband.

"Up to now, we are still facing a blank wall. The perpetrators are not punished," she said. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DENR ORDER DEFIED

Firm makes mockery of suspension of logging in Aurora

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A logging company in Aurora whose operations were suspended by Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun in August hauled out more than 800 logs last week, environmentalists in the province reported.

Records from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Central Luzon office here showed that Toplite Lumber was given a permit on Sept. 24 to ship out 831 logs that were cut before the suspension was imposed on Aug. 1.

Regidor de Leon, DENR regional executive director, said a team in a Sept. 7 report counted the logs during an inventory at Toplite's log pond in Barangay Dinadiawan in Dipaculao town.

De Leon, in a letter to the company president, Johnny Chua, said the DENR granted the request for transport to "save the economic value of the logs." The logs have a total volume of 1,502.83 cubic meters.

Loaded

Joey Estreber of the Aurora-based non-government organization Bataris said Toplite loaded the logs on MV Friendship Oct. 16 and 17.

According to Estreber, Bataris used two video cameras to document the loading supervised by local and national DENR officials.

Estreber raised doubts, saying the DENR did not involve the communities and NGOs in monitoring the inventory and shipment.

Toplite paid the government at least P2.1 million in forest charges on Sept. 19 and paid P14,522 in surety bond.

However, De Leon prohibited Toplite from taking out 49 logs allegedly cut in the boundary of Quirino province. These, he noted, were the "subject of further investigation by the DENR."

Ricardo Calderon, Aurora DENR director, said the confirmation report on the shipment, which would indicate how many logs had actually reached Metro Manila via the eastern side of the Pacific Ocean, has yet to be received by his office.

The ship is still docked in Casiguran town, awaiting the loading of lumber from another logging company.

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE
IT is exactly 528 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Abu suspects cramped in overcrowded jail

By Julie Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—At least 50 Abu Sayyaf bandits have crammed the Basilan Provincial Jail, raising concerns from justice officials about the ability of prison officials to secure the detention center.

Ricardo Cabaron, assistant regional prosecutor for Western Mindanao, said complicating the situation was the similar number of ordinary inmates also tucked up in the small rehabilitation center.

Cabaron said imprisoned suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits might take advantage of the overcrowding and escape from the jail, which has a capacity of only 50-60 inmates.

"We've been airing this concern since. The structure is so small," he said.

Cabaron had proposed that suspected bandits being kept at the Basilan jail be moved to a bigger facility.

Doubts

He also raised doubts about the fencing of the jail saying its 6 feet height could not possibly deter a determined escapee.

Most of the suspected bandits detained at the jail were being linked to the Dos Palmas hostage-taking of May 27, 2001 and the June 2001 siege of Lamitan.

Cabaron said in the event of a jailbreak, the safety of residents living near the rehabilitation center would be greatly compromised.

Supt. Bensali Jabarani, Basilan police director, said the police were doing their best.

Jabarani said policemen have been detailed outside the jail's perimeter to provide additional security.

But he admitted the overcrowding was a serious matter that should be looked into.

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PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENTS

MANIFESTO

The officers and members of the Philippine Association of Schools Superintendents (PASS) Inc., strongly support the reforms being instituted in the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) by Atty. Winston F. Garcia, President and General Manager.

These reforms are urgent and important to sustain the actuarial soundness of the GSIS and to be able to fulfill its mandate and mission of finding a wide-ranging package of social security benefits to the members. To attain this mission, benefits dispensed must always be equated to actual premium contributions. Along the way, however, the GSIS has lost its focus on being a pension fund and instead it became a welfare agency.

The measures being instituted by the GSIS are causing untold inconveniences but all these are temporary. Ultimately, these reforms are meant to serve the members and the System as well.

(Sgd.) **DR. ELLENITA T. MARTINEZ**, PhD., CESO V
PASS President

PHILIPPINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION

October 13, 2003

I am writing to enjoin other government employees like myself to exercise restraint and sobriety in dealing with the crisis in the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS for brevity).

The GSIS is mandated to provide and administer social security benefits for government employees. Lately it has become apparent that despite the continuous inflow of funds from its compulsory members, the shadow of doubts is cast on its operation due to the late processing of loans and benefits.

Like the others, I am concerned with the current financial condition of the GSIS. I believe that the crisis at the GSIS could have been due to an oversight of functions in the past, however, the current administration of the GSIS is not solely to blame and the sooner we acknowledge it the sooner we will realize that shouting in the streets and demanding resignations are not the answer.

The System has opened dialogue with the different employee organizations on how to properly address the crisis, implementing reforms and improve the financial position of the GSIS. Government employees in this country are a disciplined people even in the face of crisis. Let us support all efforts to get the System back on its feet, for all our sakes.

(Sgd.) **TERESITA V. ARRIOLA**
President, PESPA

PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

On the heels of a planned concerted action by certain government employees that tends to confuse the real issues behind the current situation involving the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), we, the officers and members of the Philippine Government Employees Association (PGEA) together with our partner organizations, declare that:

The reforms currently being implemented in the GSIS should be allowed to proceed to completion as these reforms will protect and preserve the future of the members and ultimately redound to the benefits of the entire GSIS membership.

Dialog, cooperation and coordination are still the best ways to get clear results which could truly serve the interest of the government employees. The parliament of the streets should only be resorted to if after all efforts at mutual understanding and cooperation have failed.

PGEA is now in the forefront of conducting dialogues with the GSIS to identify the areas of cooperation and coordination between the GSIS, members and government agencies. The panel created by the GSIS and member representatives have clearly identified the issues and arrived at concrete courses of action to resolve the members' concerns.

The statement of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo that "..reforms are necessary but should not inconvenience the members" supports the GSIS Reform programs and at the same time a statement of deep concern and understanding of the plight of the GSIS members.

GSIS must come up with short-term solutions with immediate positive impact on members' concerns.

We demand that GSIS normalize the releases of loans before the year ends.

(Sgd.) **ESPERANZA OCAMPO**
President, PGEA

CONFEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ORGANIZATIONS INC.

MANIFESTATION OF SUPPORT TO THE REFORM AGENDA OF GSIS PGM WINSTON F. GARCIA

Recent events involving government employee organizations has compelled us, the Confederation of Government Employees Organizations, Inc. (COGEO), which is composed of more than one hundred professional and rank and file employee organizations throughout the country, to come up with a firm stand on the issues presently raised vis-à-vis the management of the pension fund of government employees.

We feel it our responsibility to make known that we support the efforts at reforms instituted by GSIS President and General Manager Winston F. Garcia in close coordination with the entire GSIS Board of Trustees. We specifically support PGM Garcia's determined drive to identify the System's premium and loan repayment receivables and the consequent collection thereof.

Moreover, we also take pride of the fact that the COGEO has always been consulted by PGM Garcia on his intended reforms and that we have always been partners of the GSIS Board of Trustees in working for the welfare and best interests of the GSIS members and their families now and when they reach retirement age.

Experience dictates that efforts to reform age-old policies, procedures and practices necessarily result in changes which more often than not are initially resisted by those who become directly affected by the same. We are confident that the initial resistance to such changes and improvements are temporary inconveniences. We know that the full benefits and effects of the reforms instituted by PGM Winston F. Garcia will be realized.

In this spirit and having a full understanding of the long term and permanent objectives of the System's reform initiatives, we offer our organization's support and assistance to these undertakings.

(Sgd.) **VIRGINIA NANAGAS-BACTAD**
Vice President for Luzon

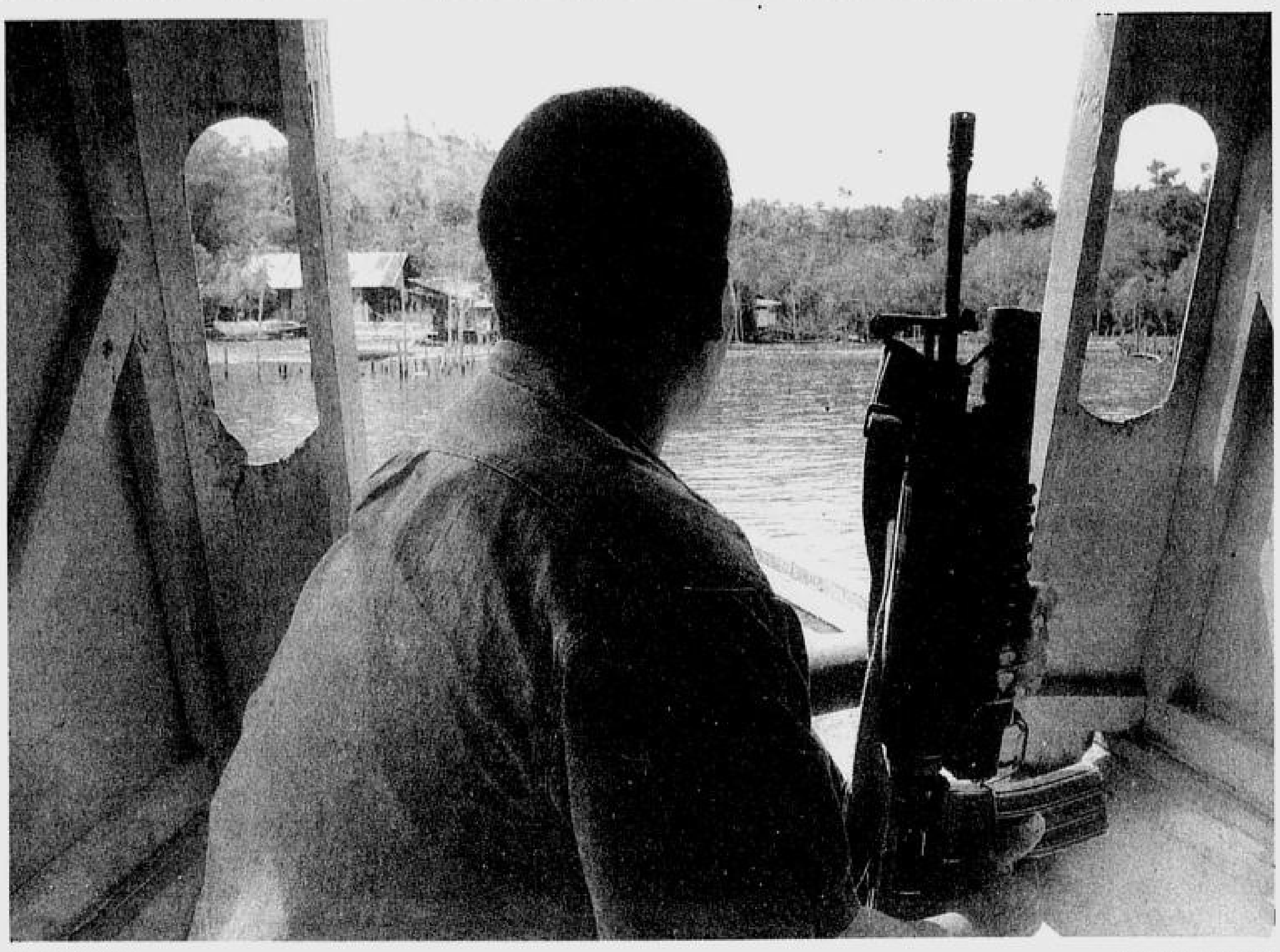
(Sgd.) **EULINIA M. VALDEZ-CO**
Vice President for the Visayas

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO V. ROMANTICO**
Vice President for Mindanao

- GSIS Reform Program lauded
- Temporary inconveniences will bring permanent benefits
- Full confidence in the present management of the GSIS stressed

Government Service Insurance System

GSIS is strong. Now stronger.



LOOKOUT

JOE ARAZAS/PDI PHOTO

A lone policeman serves as a lookout for terror suspects at a small port at the Pulawan River in Dipolog City in Zamboanga del Norte in a job made more important by President Macapagal-Arroyo's commitment to support the United States' global war on terrorism.

Militants assail flag display in front of gov't casino in Angeles

ANGELES CITY—Activists and members of a militant group here decried the Casino Filipino for allegedly desecrating the Philippine flag that the state-owned gaming company displayed at the facade of its new building in Barangay Balibago here.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) in Pampanga, in a letter published Wednesday in a local daily, asked the city government to stop the violation and penalize the company.

"This is a form of desecration," said Frank Mangulabnan, Bayan-Pampanga chair.

Mangulabnan said by displaying the flag, the Casino Filipino violated a provision of Republic Act 8491 (An act prescribing the code of the national flag, anthem, motto, coat-of-arms and other heraldic devices of the Philippines).

Section 34 of RA 8491, he said, banned the display of the flag in "casinos, gambling joints and places of vices and where frivolity prevails."

Under the same law, violators are fined between P5,000 and P20,000 or sentenced to one-year imprisonment or both.

But Ernesto Francisco, Casino Filipino branch manager, said it was appropriate for the company to display the flag in its premises because the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), its mother unit, is a government corporation.

Pagcor, Francisco said, is also under the Office of the President.

Pagcor, according to opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, was one of the milking cows of the President's husband and the chair of Pagcor was one of the operators of the first gentleman.

According to Francisco, Casino Filipino here is not solely into gaming, he said, adding it has also ventured into entertainment and dining.

"We have also been serving the communities through non-government organizations that are beneficiaries of our bingo games," Francisco said in a telephone interview.

An INQUIRER report said Pagcor has been losing hundreds of millions of pesos because of mismanagement and corruption. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

REPORT TO UN BODY

Torture of crime suspects common in RP

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Torture is still used in the Philippines and at least 88 people have been subjected to this form of violence committed mostly by soldiers since 2001, the World Organization Against Torture (WOAT) said in a report to the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) in Geneva on Tuesday.

"Many more (incidents of torture went) unreported," the OMCT said in a report prepared together with the Olongapo City-based People's Recovery, Empowerment and Development Assistance Foundation (Preda Foundation), the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP) and the Women's Education, Development, Productivity and Research Organization (Wedpro).

The OMCT is an umbrella group of 240 international non-government organizations, including Amnesty International.

According to a statement from the Switzerland-based WOAT, the "perpetrators of these acts have for the most part been members of the Armed Forces (of the Philippines)."

It said the figures "seem to indicate that the use of torture continues unabated when compared with statistics from previous periods."

The cases were recorded starting in January 2001 when President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed power in an uprising against deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The report included the harassment and threats to journalists and human rights advocates.

The report said 43 journalists have been killed and that none of their cases have been solved to date.

On the rights of minors, it said that a large number of street children have been jailed without being charged.

"Children as young as eight years old are imprisoned in very small cells with no beds, no furniture, shower or toilet. They are also subjected to torture and ill-treatment," the report said.

The WOAT expressed concern for children in Mindanao, a number of whom had been executed by the so-called death squads that killed 150 people in the last seven years.

On the trafficking of women that it said was a "serious problem" in the Philippines, the group estimated that some 35,000 women have been "exported" for prostitution rings in Southeast Asia and Western countries.

Prostituted women in the Philippines, while in jail, are abused and raped, the report said.

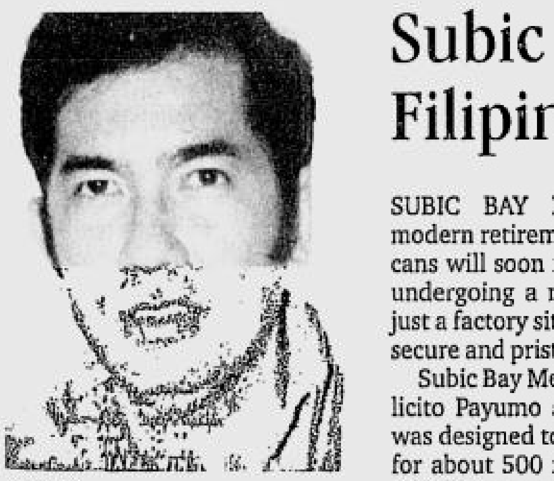
In the conference, the four collaborating organizations urged Philippine officials to order investigations of incidents of torture and abuses.

None of the murder cases involving journalists have been solved by police.

Tonette Orejas and Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Javier slay accused cries jail abuses

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau



JAVIER

SAN JOSE, Antique—An accused in the murder of former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier claimed that bodyguards of former assemblyman Arturo Pacificador convicted in the killing of Javier's supporters in 1984 were ill-treated inside the provincial jail.

Ex-Philippine Constabulary Capt. John Paloy said this prompted him to ask Pacificador not to surrender to authorities because his life may be endangered.

Pacificador, tagged as the mastermind in Javier's killing, surfaced in 1995 but denied his involvement in the case.

Paloy, one of the witnesses in the two-day hearing that ended Tuesday, said bodyguards of Pacificador who were detained at the jail of the old provincial capitol were bound in the feet by iron shackles.

He said he asked his wife to inform Pacificador's daughter Portia to relay this information to her father.

The five bodyguards were found guilty by the Antique Regional Trial Court of killing seven campaign managers of Javier on May 13, 1984 in Sibalom town in what is now known as the Pangpang Massacre.

Paloy, then commanding officer of the 323rd PC Company, was among the first suspects arrested in connection with Javier's killing and the wounding of several others on Feb. 11, 1986.

In the cross-examination, private prosecutor Aurelio Trampe questioned why it was now that he revealed the alleged ill-treatment.

Trampe said Paloy never made a written complaint or informed the judge presiding over the case when he attended hearings in the 17-year-old case.

Aside from Paloy, engineer Manuel Salazar, Antique provincial administrator, also testified for the defense.

Subic execs plan to woo migrant Filipinos to ₱600M retirement hub

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A P600-million modern retirement village for Filipino-Americans will soon rise in this freeport zone now undergoing a major face lift to become not just a factory site but a "total community with secure and pristine environment."

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo said the Subic Holiday Villas was designed to provide high quality of living for about 500 retirees who could be accommodated in the retirement community. The groundbreaking ceremony for the project is set in December this year, Payumo said.

"Subic Freeport is opening its doors to become a modern community like Singapore and Hong Kong with environment-friendly projects such as retirement villages and theme parks and eco-tourism related projects," he said.

Jose Pobocan, president of the project proponent Specified Contractors Inc., said there is no other place in the country that is best suited for a retirement village than Subic because it offers clean, unpolluted and secure surroundings.

Pobocan said Subic also has no traffic problems and offers modern medical facilities.

As part of its marketing and promotion strategies, Subic Holiday has tapped the services of Philippine Real Estate Center (Prec), a Washington, D.C.-based firm, to entice Filipino-American retirees to come to Subic, he said.

Pobocan, however, clarified that Subic Holiday is also open to other retirees of different nationalities.

"Subic Holiday is targeting the retired Filipino-Americans as potential clients and we only need 1 percent of the over 2.8 million Filipino-Americans for them to be part of this project," said Michael Gaviola, chair of the Prec.

"It is just our way of saying that Subic Freeport is a good place to welcome back these *balikbayan* (returning Filipinos) and continue the quality of life they are enjoying in the United States," said Gaviola.

Subic Holiday is expected to hire about 300 personnel, including doctors, nurses and caregivers, to provide professional assistance for the day-to-day needs of retirees.

Pobocan said a Filipino-American retiree, who receives an average of $1,800 (P98,730) to $2,500 (P137,125) in monthly pension could spend his or her money wisely at the Subic Freeport.

Architect Enrique Olonan, Specified Contractors Inc. chair, said Subic Holiday would offer elegant architectural designs for the villas to create a world-class retirement village near the George Dewey Convention Center.

The first phase of the project will be completed within two years, the project proponent said.

Subic was formerly a base of operations of the US military and one of the United States' largest military bases outside of continental America.

But after the Philippine Senate voted to reject a treaty that could have extended the stay of American soldiers in Subic and Clark, another US military base, the Philippine government decided to convert the former military bases into economic zones.

Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Wives, kids of police assets slain in Bacolod

BACOLOD CITY—Three armed men killed the wives and two children of two police assets on Tuesday night while they were sleeping inside their home in Barangay Mansiligan this city.

Two children were also hurt in the massacre allegedly perpetuated by suspected robbers who were seeking revenge against the police assets whom they believed were responsible for their arrest early this month.

The police identified the victims as Jennylyn Boliboli, 26, who was six months pregnant; Shirley Mayagma, 32, and her children Sheryl, 5 and Carlo, 1.

Jory Boliboli and Oni Mayagma, the husbands of Jennylyn and Shirley respectively, worked as police assets. Jory is Shirley's brother. The two families lived in the same house in Barangay Mansiligan.

Jory's daughter Jeanne, 2, suffered a bullet wound in the chest and was still in critical condition at the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital.

Oni's son Hernie, 13, suffered bullet wounds in the left arm and right wrist after he shielded a younger brother from the bullets. He had been released from the CLMMRH.

Initial police investigation showed that the victims were sound asleep when the suspects, armed with .357 magnum revolver, entered their house at about 10:30 p.m. and fired at them.

Shirley, Sheryl and Carlo died on the spot. Jennylyn died upon reaching the CLMMRH.

Rachel Mayagma, 13, and her brother Ariel 14, were able to escape. Berne was injured while shielding his brother Ariel.

According to the police, Hermie later identified the suspects as Aries Ubay Chiroka, Telesporo Galleza Urbano, and Benjie Casipe Bernabe.

Chief Insp. Harold Tuzon, head of the Bacolod City Police Office-Intelligence Division, said the massacre was most likely motivated by revenge.

He said the suspects believed that Oni and Jory provided the information that led to their arrest on Oct. 14.

The three were suspected to be members of the Noli Actor Criminal Gang believed to be responsible for a series of robbery and theft cases in Bacolod City and Negros Occidental.

Tuzon said the police were forced to release them later after no complainants came forward to file charges.

He said they arrested Chiroka, Urbano and Bernabe after Noli Diega, leader of the gang, identified them as members of the robbery group.

Diega and two other gang members were arrested also on Oct. 14 on the strength of the warrants that were issued for various charges. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

ROUNDUP

3 killed in accident

PAGBILAO, Quezon—Three youngsters were killed in a vehicular accident in Barangay Ikirin on Tuesday last week. The victims, John Herbert Obcemea Asilo, of Lucena City; Allan Paulo San Pablo and Daniel Emmanuel de Gala, both of Candelaria, Quezon, were riding in a Toyota Corolla and were cruising the Maharlika Highway when their car was hit by a Grand Star Bus driven by one John del Rosario. The three car passengers died on the spot. The bus driver is now detained at the municipal jail here.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Robbery gang busted

PAGBILAO, Quezon—Police busted the "Sapalaran Gang," a notorious group of hijackers that had been victimizing slow-moving trucks loaded with cargo in Barangay Silangang Malicboy. Police said the latest victim, Arnel Roblo, of Naga City, reported that the group robbed him of cookies worth about P35,000 on Oct. 12 while he was slowly negotiating the ascending road. In a follow-up operation, police spotted the gang leader, Abel Sapalaran, and one of his aides, Jonathan Pastrana, while walking down a hill, each one carrying a sack full of biscuits. The two, however, managed to escape. Police later arrested two suspected members of the group identified as Alexander Ilag and Roberto Ibon.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cop shot dead

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—A police officer who tried to pacify a quarreling group of men was shot dead by two men suspected of having been irked by the policeman's interference in Barangay Mamatid, Cabuyao, Laguna on Tuesday. Slain policeman PO2 Randolph Magallanes, 33, assigned to the Special Action Force based in Fort Sto Domingo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, was brought to the Calamba Doctors' Hospital where he died of two bullet wounds in the head. Valencia said a certain Leonido Legarde and Josel Campana, a supposed friend of the victim, had an altercation with the gunmen after the victim accused them of violating traffic rules. Without warning, one of the suspects shot the victim. The suspects fled toward the town proper.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Drug free villages

CALAPAN CITY—Oriental Mindoro police director Supt. Voltaire Calzado said 14 barangays in the city are now drug-free. He added that of the 67 barangays in the province with drug problems, 70 percent had been cleaned up. Calzado made the report during the visit of Philippine National Police Deputy Dir. Gen. Edgardo B. Aglipay, Director Jose C. Lalisan Jr. and Mimaropa regional director Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapinid on Oct. 9 to check on the province's efforts in eradicating the drug problem.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Tamaraw quiz

CALAPAN CITY—In line with the Month of Tamaraw celebration in Oriental Mindoro, 22 high school students participated in a quiz bee, while 14 elementary students participated in a poster-making contest held at the Boy Scouts compound here last week. The theme of the celebration is "Let Us Conserve and Protect the Tamaraw." Guests during this event were Josefina de Leon of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau and national coordinator of the Tamaraw Month celebration and environment and natural resources Officer Maximino Jumig. The five winners of the quiz bee will represent Oriental Mindoro in the Bio Quiz "Battle of the Champions" on Oct. 28 in Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Hospital user's fee

CALAPAN CITY—A user's fee of P20 is now being collected from patients of Oriental Mindoro Provincial Hospital (OMPH) and satellite hospitals in the province by virtue of Provincial Ordinance No. 005. This is part of the local government's PhilHealth sa Masa program which aims to provide better health services to the poor. Of the amount, P10 will be used to buy supplies and medicines. The rest will go to administrative costs as incentives to doctors, nurses and government employees. Before the implementation, OMPH chief Dr. Aristeo Baldos said they conducted an advocacy campaign in the different towns, which gained positive support from the people.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Nun fights illegal loggers in Mangyanland

By Madonna T. Virola
Sta. Cruz, Occidental Mindoro

SHE WAS the principal of an exclusive school in Manila. But this position did not really fulfill Sr. Lilia Frandoza, a Missionary Sister of the Immaculate Conception (MIC). What she really wanted was to work with the poor.

"As a religious, there is always a call by the Church to serve the poor," Sr. Frandoza said.

In 1990, she went to Occidental Mindoro and landed in the remote communities of the Mangyan, where she saw how the indigenous folk were exploited and their environment destroyed.

As her work with the tribal folk had become a threat to illegal loggers, her house in a remote area in Barangay Siapo, Sta. Cruz town was burned down.

But this did not discourage her from continuing her work with the tribes. Instead of choosing the secure walls of the convent and the prestige that goes with being a school principal, 60-year-old Sr. Lilia Frandoza, pleaded to her superior to allow her to return to her service area after that tragic time in her missionary life.

Commitment

This commitment developed after she experienced how the non-Mangyan exploit the Mangyan folk.

"On my first day in Mangyanland, I said I didn't want to climb the mountain because it was difficult for me. *Madali pala* (I found out it was easy)," said Sr. Frandoza.

Born in Koronadal, South Cotabato, Sr. Frandoza is an educator by profession.

She finished her Masters Degree in Educational Management at the De La Salle University in Manila.

She was assigned at the Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA) in Greenhills and ICA-Manila as principal.

Community supervisor

Sr. Frandoza saw that a non-formal education would be most fit for the Mangyan folk, given their distance from the formal schools, their poverty, and other circumstances.

She thought that joining the educational program of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) would be strategic. But with her academic background, she was instead taken in as supervisor and thereafter became a trainer for the Mangyan parateachers under a United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) program.

Sr. Frandoza left the program because she thought that the teachers were being used by politicians.

SR. LILIA Frandoza, MIC, lives out her vocation and faith by serving the Mangyan amidst threats in her life. Her house was burned down by illegal loggers as she fought for the environment and the Mangyan. MADONNA VIROLA

She then started an educational program for 56 Mangyan folk in Barangay Siapo. A three-meals-per-day schedule was integrated in the program and a dormitory was put up in the village. "*A-absent kasi sila* (because they would be absent) particularly during the hunger season."

She considers community organizing as the highlight of her missionary work.

"You see the results of their efforts not only as Mangyans but also as citizens of the country," Sr. Frandoza said. "In non-formal education, you develop the Mangyan into leaders."

Her organizing work includes awareness raising among the Mangyan on the Indigenous People's Rights Act (Ipra).

She also became active in lobbying for the passage of the Ipra law in Congress. "It's a product of massive dialogue between the indigenous peoples and Panlipi," she said.

To date, around 6,000 Mangyan folk have been informed about Ipra, she added.

When she saw that the Mangyan folk were already skilled in agriculture, including integrated pest management, she terminated this form of assistance in 1998.

The Technical Educational Skills and Development Authority, are now teaching them skills to enable them to fix their own hand tractors, threshers, water pumps, windmill and other farm equipment.

Illegal activities

Her work with the Mangyan had brought her face to face with illegal activities in the mountains.

"I saw a lot of lumber that were being pushed in front of my house, like narra and mulawin. These are made into *muebles* (furniture), like *aparador* and cabinet, in Baclaran. They concealed (the lumber with) the firewood to avoid being noticed," Sr. Frandoza said.

She said she saw how the fishes were being killed through electrocution or chemical poisoning of the river.

"So what else can be harvested? (Those involved in illegal activities) are also left with nothing to eat. But you can't justify your illegal act with that. There are many other ways to survive," Sr. Frandoza said.

After explaining the negative impact of illegal activities on the environment, she would learn that the migrants, who she said were involved in illegal activities, would go back to their old destructive ways.

The anger she and the Mangyan folk felt moved them into action.

Frustrations

Sr. Frandoza and the Mangyan have earlier coordinated a case of illegal logging with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The Mangyans themselves brought the reported illegally cut logs to government attention.

"We were counting on the DENR to join us in filing a case so it would have a greater weight in court. But they did not! We proceeded with the filing of the case amid continuing harassment on the Mangyan," she narrated.

In February last year, as she was attending her congregation's Jubilee celebration in Manila, Sr. Frandoza's house was burned. That house also houses services for the Alangan Mangyan.

The news shattered her. "I cried and cried like a child. Why did they do such a thing? What did I do wrong?"

She said the Mangyan pointed to the illegal loggers as the culprit.

After crying her heart out, she requested her superior to let her go back to the area. "The more they need my support," she explained.

Illegal logging

Two MIC sisters went to investigate with the Mangyans. Sr. Frandoza was made to stay in Manila until things cooled down. She learned that the non-Mangyans had been spreading the information that she was a communist. "I confronted them."

As she had earned the respect of the Mangyans, they reported to her cases of landgrabbing, particularly those of irrigated and fertile lands, and threats to the Mangyan lives if they did not leave their land.

"They would pretend to be doctors or healers and in return, they would get the animals (like chicken and goat) of the Mangyans. They made the Mangyan work without pay. Sometimes, they would tell the Mangyan that they would sell their carabao for money but would never pay.

They used the Mangyan as carrier and safe keeper of their illegal logs and promised them money.

Recently, the illegal loggers burned a mango tree that was about 25-30 years old. "It was heavy with fruits but they claimed it was a disturbance in the ricefield."

Litigation

Two cases have occupied Sr. Frandoza. One is arson of her house and the other is arson of 1,000 one-year-old coconut trees. The second case had caused the burning of the mountain.

Two of the culprits are now in jail. They are migrant Visayans, which she called "petitioners" because they petition government lands to be given to them.

She expressed being burdened with litigation expenses, citing that in one year, a case would be postponed for about 6-7 times.

Sr. Frandoza is into planting of fruit trees, which has reached 3,000 pieces and she continues to grow nurseries out of concern for Mother Earth.

"I saw the trees, 30-40 years old, turn dead in a matter of seconds because of illegal logging," she said.

She believes that education is a lifelong process. "I don't waste time for the Mangyan to learn. I always give them the opportunity to learn so that when they leave, they can stand on their own."

For these efforts, the Department of Education, Unesco, Rotary Club International and Foundation for Continuing Education gave her the Outstanding Literacy Worker Award in 1996.

Despite the continuing threat on her life, she feels fulfilled that the Mangyans are now involved in community concerns.

There are already 21 Mangyan forest guards who coordinate with the police to guard the mountains.

Besides direct work with the Mangyans, Sr. Frandoza is also sending 52 Mangyan scholars to school.

However, she said the assistance she is getting from donors is not enough. "Every year, I am looking for sponsors."

She appealed for assistance, convinced that education is the key to enlightenment, action and upliftment among the Mangyan.

(Those who wish to help Sr. Frandoza's scholars can contact the Missionary Sisters of Immaculate Conception at 10 Grant St., Greenhills. Look for Sr. Delia Regidor, MIC)

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METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

We'll recruit only the best, brightest for PNP, says Lina

By Margaux Ortiz

"ONLY the best and the brightest shall become policemen."

Interior and Local Government Secretary and National Police Commission (Napolcom) Chair Jose Lina Jr. yesterday announced this following the commission's recent issuance of a memorandum circular ensuring that only highly qualified individuals will be admitted into the police force.

The memo circular prescribes the revised guidelines in the recruitment, selection and appointment of police officer 1 (PO1) in the Philippine National Police, Lina said.

Lina added that the memo circular was passed to establish a system that is characterized by strict observance of the merit, fitness and equality principles in the PNP recruitment process.

He said the memo will create equal opportunity to all qualified men and women for appointment in the police service.

"The landmark circular will definitely pave the way towards the attainment of a truly professionalized police service," Lina stressed.

He said one of the salient provisions of the revised memorandum is the designation of a Napolcom senior official as co-chair of the screening committee at various levels to ensure that all the requirements and qualification standards set by the Commission are met by the applicants.

Josephmar Gil, head of the Napolcom public information office, said the Commission's officials were only present in the final stages of the screening as opposed to the new set-up.

The memorandum also requires PO1 applicants to submit their application papers to the PNP-Directorate for Personnel and Records Management or the recruiting National Support Units and the office of the city or town mayor for regional applicants.

Applicants are also required to possess a baccalaureate degree, be 21-30 years old, stand at least 1.62 meters (5'4" feet) for male and 1.57 meters (5'2" feet) for female, and pass the psychiatric or psychological, drug and physical tests administered by the PNP.

PUSH, PUSH, PUSH
A member of the Western Police District does push-ups as punishment for having incomplete gear during a general inspection held Wednesday. WPD officials also used the opportunity to brief their men on antiterrorist measures being drawn up.
ERIK ARAZAS

5 hurt in QC grenade blast

By Tina Santos

FIVE people were hurt in a grenade attack outside a karaoke bar in Quezon City early yesterday morning.

The police identified the victims as Alejandro Lim, 23, a PR manager and resident of Batas Street, Bacood, Sta. Mesa Manila; Renato Hatol, 29, of South Triangle, Quezon City; Ariel Liderato, 20, a student; Ernesto Aparicio, a taxi driver; and Dadermoon Tan, 22, of Sampaloc, Manila.

The victims were treated for shrapnel wounds.

According to Central Police District investigators, two men on a black scooter threw a hand grenade as these rode past Dreams KTV at 41 Timog Avenue, Barangay South Triangle at about 2:30 a.m.

The victims, except for Aparicio, had just come out of the bar and were waiting for a ride home.

The blast also damaged three cars: a Honda Civic (UUE 240), a Toyota Corolla and a Lancer with no license plates.

Investigators said they were still trying to determine the motive behind the incident.

They, however, added that it could have been related to a gang war or a rift between the suspects and the owners or staff of the bar.

Promotion for 2,300 cops due

By Margaux Ortiz

GOOD news for policemen waiting for their long-delayed promotion for defending Malacañang Palace from pro-Estrada protesters on May 1, 2001.

National Police Commission (Napolcom) official Conrad Taule told the INQUIRER yesterday that they would be announcing the names of the "chosen ones" before the end of the year.

Taule, who is in charge of evaluating the policemen recommended for the special promotion, said the announcement would be done in batches.

He disclosed that the names of the first batch of 2,300 policemen to be promoted would be out no later than December.

The Philippine National Police Special Promotions Awards and Decorations Board earlier recommended for promotion 7,819 police officers.

Taule said the lawmen up for promotion already completed the required education and had passed the necessary examinations to qualify for the meritorious promotion.

"Now, we are in the final stages of our task," Taule assured the restless PNP personnel.

However, he explained that under the law, police officers could not be promoted if they had pending criminal or administrative cases, or if their status in the force was temporary.

Cell phone caper nearly pays off

By Tarra Quismundo

A WOMAN came up with a cell phone plan that almost outdid those which were being offered by mobile phone companies and she landed in jail for it.

Odic Rivera, 29, availed of a "free cell phone" offer and nearly ran off with two top of the line phones worth P62,000.

Rivera's plan was simple. She just paid a deposit to get the free phone and let someone else pay for the monthly payments.

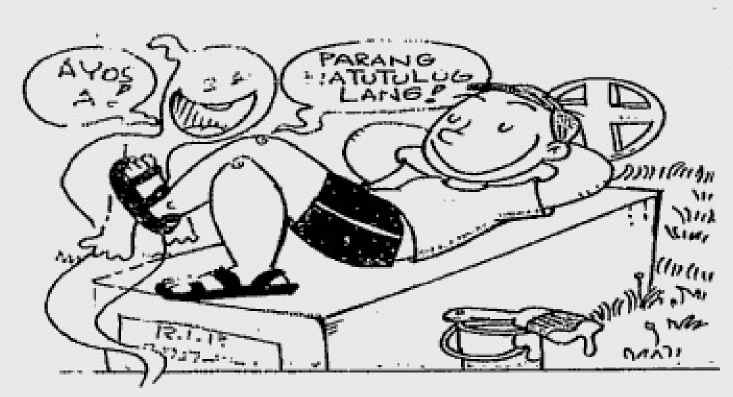
Last Friday, the woman from Valenzuela City went to a cell phone store in SM Manila and availed of a plan that gave away a Nokia 7250i worth P26,000.

She paid the P5,893 deposit for the phone and presented a bank certification and an authorization letter both in the name of Ma. Rhodora Santosidad.

On Monday, Rivera came back for a Sony Ericsson T800 worth P36,000, again using the same documents in the name of Santosidad.

Wondering why someone would buy several phones in such a short time, telecom center personnel checked with Santosidad and discovered that the documents were forgeries.

Rivera was promptly arrested and later charged with estafa.


AYOS A?
PARANG NATUTULOG LANG?
R.I.P.

Check your temper, cemetery goers told

By Tina Santos

TERRORISTS may be the least of the worries of people planning to visit cemeteries this coming All Saints and All Souls holidays.

According to the police, it's the hot-headed fellow visitor to the memorial park that people should look out for.

National Capital Regional Police Office chief Reynaldo Velasco said policemen would be deployed to cemeteries to help thwart terrorist attacks.

He also asked for people's cooperation. "Allow your bags to be inspected, and as much as possible, bring only necessities," Velasco said.

Apart from securing cemeteries, mobile and motorcycle policemen backed by K9 units will be tasked to monitor traffic and enforce the strict inspection of baggage in transport terminals.

According to Velasco, transport terminals would be likely targets of any terrorist attack.

But more than terrorists, the NCRPO chief urged people to control their temper to prevent violent incidents that could cost them their lives.

"Let's keep our cool. Violence in cemeteries could be triggered by a simple traffic altercation or a fight over parking space," Velasco said.

On the eve of All Saints' Day in 1998, Feliber Andres, who was eight months pregnant, was shot dead inside the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

Her husband had an argument with the gunman over traffic.

METROBRIEFS

LTO, LTFRB action centers

HAVING problems in getting your license or having your car registered? Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza recently inaugurated action centers at the Land Transportation Office and at the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board to help people transact with these agencies. Mendoza said the action centers would accept complaints such as those related to vehicle smoke emission testing, processing of driver's license, registration of vehicles and public utility vehicle franchise processing.

Lourdes QC OktuBEERit!

THE LOURDES School of Quezon City Alumni Association (LSQCAA) invites all alumni and friends of Lourdes School of QC to a night of jamming and partying dubbed OktuBEERit! on Oct. 25, 7 p.m., at the LSQC high school grounds. OktuBEERit! promises a night of reminiscing with classmates, music, food and, of course, beer. Those who wish to can bring their favorite musical instrument. A minimal entrance fee will be charged. For more info, contact Abby at 781-6475 or 0919-6094628 or e-mail lsqcaa@edsamail.com.ph.

UPAE homecoming

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Alumni Engineers (UPAE) will hold its annual homecoming and reunion on Nov. 8, 2003, at 4:30 p.m. at the Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman, Quezon City. With the theme "Galing sa Eng'g—Balik sa Eng'g," this year's homecoming enjoins all alumni and jubilarians to be more active in supporting the UPAE's programs. Special classes in reunion are Class '43 (Diamond Jubilarians), Class '53 (Golden Jubilarians), Class '63 (Ruby Jubilarians) and Class '78 (Silver Jubilarians). For details, contact Nanette Pelaez at 926-1516/Fax 922-4714; Elvie Visaya at 434-3632/ Fax 926-5487, or e-mail Ronilo Salustiano at ronilo.salustiano@up.edu.ph.

Farmers fed turn 50

ON OCT. 25, the Federation of Free Farmers will commemorate its 50th year of peaceful struggle for the cause of Filipino agricultural workers. More than 2,000 members, sympathizers and friends will gather at the Le Pavillion along Roxas Boulevard to celebrate. This grand reunion is anchored on the theme "Gintong Kasaysayan tungo sa Gintong Kinabukasan." Inquiries can be made at the FFF office at 647-1451 or 647-1093 or email us at freefarm@mozcom.com.

New fare cut scheme eyed

THE INTEGRATED Metro Bus Owners Association (IMBOA) plans to coordinate closely with schools on fare discounts given to students.

Under the law, students are given a 20 percent discount on transport fare.

But IMBOA president Claire dela Fuente said anybody can manufacture fake IDs and pose as students so they could pay less for their fare.

"The discounts we give to the students are too significant to ignore," Dela Fuente said.

She added, "The last thing we want to do is give discounts to frauds."

Dela Fuente said IMBOA would ask the schools to provide the association with official lists of their students so they could issue new identification cards to "those who really deserved the discounts." *Margaux Ortiz*

FPJ up close and personal

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

IS THE Opposition so lacking in presidential material it's forcing movie actor Fernando Poe Jr. to run for president in 2004?

FPJ is an excellent actor, there's no doubt about it. But how can FPJ become a good president when he's so shy that he doesn't know how to interact with other people?

FPJ's shyness, in fact, borders on being anti-social. That's the reason you seldom see or hear him being interviewed.

* * *

I've heard a lot of good things about FPJ. One is about his unbelievable generosity. During a location shooting in a small barrio, Poe had a school building built when he saw the rundown building housing the elementary school.

Like comedian Dolphy, Poe also extends financial help to destitute fellow actors and movie crew.

But generosity is not a trait of a good leader. It is, in fact, a defect when one is a public official because his tendency is to give away money that belongs to the government.

* * *

If FPJ is swayed by friends and supporters to run for president, then God bless the Philippines!

Chances are he's going to win hands down because of the unthinking, ignorant masses. The same masses that sent Joseph "Erap" Estrada to Malacañang.

It's a case of history repeating itself.

* * *

In Morolandia, it is said that when FPJ portrays a character that dies in the story, the male viewers shoot up the screen.

There's this joke that when FPJ visited a small town in Muslim Mindanao, the crowd that met him was so thick one could hardly get near him. So, Abdul, his avid fan, climbed a tree and shouted at FPJ when the actor passed by.

"Fernando, Fernando! *Si* Abdul *ito! Hindi mo na ako kilala* (This is Abdul! Don't you recognize me)?

Looking up, FPJ replied very politely that it was the first time he saw Abdul.

"*Ako yung nagsigaw sa iyo noong babarilin ka ni* Max Alvarado *sa kampanaryo kaya nakalingon ka at napatay mo si* Max (I was the one who shouted to you when Max Alvarado was about to shoot you in the back at the church bell tower. Because you were forewarned in time, you killed Max)," said Abdul.

Sounding bitter, Abdul told FPJ: "*Nakalimutan mo na ang nagligtas ng iyong buhay,* Fernando (You've forgotten the guy who saved your life)."

See, I told you how FPJ is popular among the masa!

* * *

I hope that despite the pressure being brought to bear on him by his friends and supporters, FPJ will not run.

FPJ should remember that he's already a legend. And he should make that legend remain.

FPJ will destroy that legend if he becomes President. He will go the way of "Erap" Estrada.

Stay in the movie world, Ronnie, where you have no equal. *Huwag kang pauto sa mga kaibigan mo.*

* * *

Ronnie, just like any other human being, also has his defects. One of them is that he doesn't know how to hold his drink.

FPJ has a Dr. Jekyll-Mr. Hyde personality. When he's sober, Ronnie is as meek and gentle as a lamb. But when he gets tipsy, he has the tendency to become violent.

Many years ago, a gay movie reporter wrote that FPJ had a small sex organ. FPJ chanced upon the movie scribe at a time when he was drunk. The actor reportedly beat up the scribe. Unzipping his fly before the hapless scribe, FPJ reportedly pissed on him.

* * *

I have nothing against Ronnie's drinking habits so long as he's able to control himself. But many times, I was told, he forgets that he should be a model of good behavior because of his bigger-than-life roles in the movies.

In the early days of martial law, FPJ and his friend Luis "Chavit" Singson slugged it out at the Makati Hotel as if they were doing it in the movies. That incident reached then Mayor Nemesio Yabut, owner of the hotel, and ordered both FPJ and Singson arrested if they set foot in Makati again.

* * *

FPJ has played a big influence on his close friend, Joseph Estrada. In fact, it was Ronnie who gave Estrada the name "Erap," which is an inverted word for pare. Ronnie also calls his other close friends "Erap."

What other influence did Ronnie have on Erap? Both pissed on persons who pissed them off.

When Erap was still San Juan mayor, he would order policemen who committed abuses against civilians to line up in formation. Then he would urinate on the legs of the abusive cops.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

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(In exact order)
SUERTRES
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METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

PUSH, PUSH, PUSH
A member of the Western Police District does push-ups as punishment for having incomplete gear during a general inspection held Wednesday. WPD officials also used the opportunity to brief their men on antiterrorist measures being drawn up.
ERIK ARAZAS

We'll recruit only the best, brightest for PNP, says Lina

By Margaux Ortiz

"ONLY the best and the brightest shall become policemen."

Interior and Local Government Secretary and National Police Commission (Napolcom) Chair Jose Lina Jr. yesterday announced this following the commission's recent issuance of a memorandum circular ensuring that only highly qualified individuals will be admitted into the police force.

The memo circular prescribes the revised guidelines in the recruitment, selection and appointment of police officer 1 (PO1) in the Philippine National Police, Lina said.

Lina added that the memo circular was passed to establish a system that is characterized by strict observance of the merit, fitness and equality principles in the PNP recruitment process.

He said the memo will create equal opportunity to all qualified men and women for appointment in the police service.

"The landmark circular will definitely pave the way towards the attainment of a truly professionalized police service," Lina stressed.

He said one of the salient provisions of the revised memorandum is the designation of a Napolcom senior official as co-chair of the screening committee at various levels to ensure that all the requirements and qualification standards set by the Commission are met by the applicants.

Josephmar Gil, head of the Napolcom public information office, said the Commission's officials were only present in the final stages of the screening as opposed to the new set-up.

The memorandum also requires PO1 applicants to submit their application papers to the PNP-Directorate for Personnel and Records Management or the recruiting National Support Units and the office of the city or town mayor for regional applicants.

Applicants are also required to possess a baccalaureate degree, be 21-30 years old, stand at least 1.62 meters (5'4" feet) for male and 1.57 meters (5'2" feet) for female, and pass the psychiatric or psychological, drug and physical tests administered by the PNP.

5 hurt in QC grenade blast

By Tina Santos

FIVE people were hurt in a grenade attack outside a karaoke bar in Quezon City early yesterday morning.

The police identified the victims as Alejandro Lim, 23, a PR manager and resident of Batas Street, Bacood, Sta. Mesa Manila; Renato Hatol, 29, of South Triangle, Quezon City; Ariel Liderato, 20, a student; Ernesto Aparicio, a taxi driver; and Dadermoon Tan, 22, of Sampaloc, Manila.

The victims were treated for shrapnel wounds.

According to Central Police District investigators, two men on a black scooter threw a hand grenade as these rode past Dreams KTV at 41 Timog Avenue, Barangay South Triangle at about 2:30 a.m.

The victims, except for Aparicio, had just come out of the bar and were waiting for a ride home.

The blast also damaged three cars: a Honda Civic (UUE 240), a Toyota Corolla and a Lancer with no license plates.

Investigators said they were still trying to determine the motive behind the incident.

They, however, added that it could have been related to a gang war or a rift between the suspects and the owners or staff of the bar.

Promotion for 2,300 cops due

By Margaux Ortiz

GOOD news for policemen waiting for their long-delayed promotion for defending Malacañang Palace from pro-Estrada protesters on May 1, 2001.

National Police Commission (Napolcom) official Conrad Taule told the INQUIRER yesterday that they would be announcing the names of the "chosen ones" before the end of the year.

Taule, who is in charge of evaluating the policemen recommended for the special promotion, said the announcement would be done in batches.

He disclosed that the names of the first batch of 2,300 policemen to be promoted would be out no later than December.

The Philippine National Police Special Promotions Awards and Decorations Board earlier recommended for promotion 7,819 police officers.

Taule said the lawmen up for promotion already completed the required education and had passed the necessary examinations to qualify for the meritorious promotion.

"Now, we are in the final stages of our task," Taule assured the restless PNP personnel.

However, he explained that under the law, police officers could not be promoted if they had pending criminal or administrative cases, or if their status in the force was temporary.

Cell phone caper nearly pays off

By Tarra Quismundo

A WOMAN came up with a cell phone plan that almost outdid those which were being offered by mobile phone companies and she landed in jail for it.

Odie Rivera, 29, availed of a "free cell phone" offer and nearly ran off with two top of the line phones worth P62,000.

Rivera's plan was simple. She just paid a deposit to get the free phone and let someone else pay for the monthly payments.

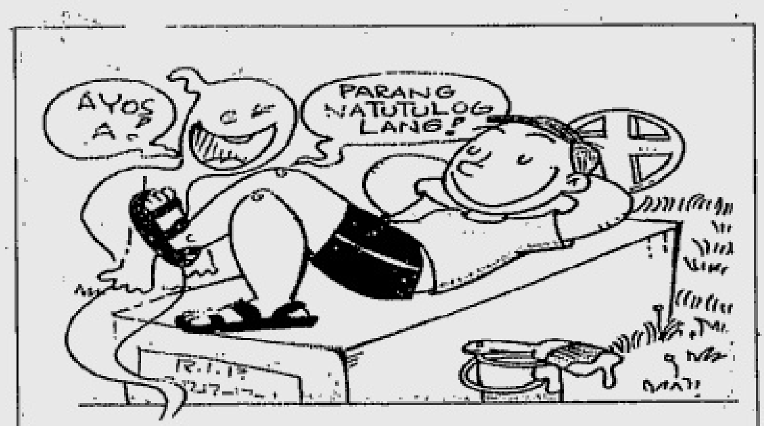
Last Friday, the woman from Valenzuela City went to a cell phone store in SM Manila and availed of a plan that gave away a Nokia 7250i worth P26,000.

She paid the P5,893 deposit for the phone and presented a bank certification and an authorization letter both in the name of Ma. Rhodora Santosidad.

On Monday, Rivera came back for a Sony Ericsson T800 worth P36,000, again using the same documents in the name of Santosidad.

Wondering why someone would buy several phones in such a short time, telecom center personnel checked with Santosidad and discovered that the documents were forgeries.

Rivera was promptly arrested and later charged with estafa.


AYOS A?
PARANG NATUTULOG LANG!
R.I.P.

Check your temper, cemetery goers told

By Tina Santos

TERRORISTS may be the least of the worries of people planning to visit cemeteries this coming All Saints and All Souls holidays.

According to the police, it's the hot-headed fellow visitor to the memorial park that people should look out for.

National Capital Regional Police Office chief Reynaldo Velasco said policemen would be deployed to cemeteries to help thwart terrorist attacks.

He also asked for people's cooperation. "Allow your bags to be inspected, and as much as possible, bring only necessities," Velasco said.

Apart from securing cemeteries, mobile and motorcycle policemen backed by K9 units will be tasked to monitor traffic and enforce the strict inspection of baggage in transport terminals.

According to Velasco, transport terminals would be likely targets of any terrorist attack.

But more than terrorists, the NCRPO chief urged people to control their temper to prevent violent incidents that could cost them their lives.

"Let's keep our cool. Violence in cemeteries could be triggered by a simple traffic altercation or a fight over parking space," Velasco said.

On the eve of All Saints' Day in 1998, Feliber Andres, who was eight months pregnant, was shot dead inside the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

Her husband had an argument with the gunman over traffic.

METROBRIEFS

LTO, LTFRB action centers

HAVING problems in getting your license or having your car registered? Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza recently inaugurated action centers at the Land Transportation Office and at the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board to help people transact with these agencies. Mendoza said the action centers would accept complaints such as those related to vehicle smoke emission testing, processing of driver's license, registration of vehicles and public utility vehicle franchise processing.

Lourdes QC OktuBEERit!

THE LOURDES School of Quezon City Alumni Association (LSQCAA) invites all alumni and friends of Lourdes School of QC to a night of jamming and partying dubbed OktuBEERit! on Oct. 25, 7 p.m., at the LSQC high school grounds. OktuBEERit! promises a night of reminiscing with classmates, music, food and, of course, beer. Those who wish to can bring their favorite musical instrument. A minimal entrance fee will be charged. For more info, contact Abby at 781-6475 or 0919-6094628 or e-mail lsqcaa@edsamail.com.ph.

UPAE homecoming

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Alumni Engineers (UPAE) will hold its annual homecoming and reunion on Nov. 8, 2003, at 4:30 p.m. at the Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman, Quezon City. With the theme "Galing sa Eng'g—Balik sa Eng'g," this year's homecoming enjoins all alumni and jubilarians to be more active in supporting the UPAE's programs. Special classes in reunion are Class '43 (Diamond Jubilarians), Class '53 (Golden Jubilarians), Class '63 (Ruby Jubilarians) and Class '78 (Silver Jubilarians). For details, contact Nanette Pelaez at 926-1516/Fax 922-4714; Elvie Visaya at 434-3632/ Fax 926-5487, or e-mail Ronilo Salustiano at ronilo.salustiano@up.edu.ph.

Farmers fed turn 50

ON OCT. 25, the Federation of Free Farmers will commemorate its 50th year of peaceful struggle for the cause of Filipino agricultural workers. More than 2,000 members, sympathizers and friends will gather at the Le Pavillion along Roxas Boulevard to celebrate. This grand reunion is anchored on the theme "Gintong Kasaysayan tungo sa Gintong Kinabukasan." Inquiries can be made at the FFF office at 647-1451 or 647-1093 or email us at freefarm@mozcom.com.

New fare cut scheme eyed

THE INTEGRATED Metro Bus Owners Association (IMBOA) plans to coordinate closely with schools on fare discounts given to students.

Under the law, students are given a 20 percent discount on transport fare.

But IMBOA president Claire dela Fuente said anybody can manufacture fake IDs and pose as students so they could pay less for their fare.

"The discounts we give to the students are too significant to ignore," Dela Fuente said.

She added, "The last thing we want to do is give discounts to frauds."

Dela Fuente said IMBOA would ask the schools to provide the association with official lists of their students so they could issue new identification cards to "those who really deserved the discounts." *Margaux Ortiz*

FPJ up close and personal

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

IS THE Opposition so lacking in presidential material it's forcing movie actor Fernando Poe Jr. to run for president in 2004?

FPJ is an excellent actor, there's no doubt about it. But how can FPJ become a good president when he's so shy that he doesn't know how to interact with other people?

FPJ's shyness, in fact, borders on being anti-social. That's the reason you seldom see or hear him being interviewed.

* * *

I've heard a lot of good things about FPJ. One is about his unbelievable generosity. During a location shooting in a small barrio, Poe had a school building built when he saw the rundown building housing the elementary school.

Like comedian Dolphy, Poe also extends financial help to destitute fellow actors and movie crew.

But generosity is not a trait of a good leader. It is, in fact, a defect when one is a public official because his tendency is to give away money that belongs to the government.

* * *

If FPJ is swayed by friends and supporters to run for president, then God bless the Philippines!

Chances are he's going to win hands down because of the unthinking, ignorant masses. The same masses that sent Joseph "Erap" Estrada to Malacañang.

It's a case of history repeating itself.

* * *

In Morolandia, it is said that when FPJ portrays a character that dies in the story, the male viewers shoot up the screen.

There's this joke that when FPJ visited a small town in Muslim Mindanao, the crowd that met him was so thick one could hardly get near him. So, Abdul, his avid fan, climbed a tree and shouted at FPJ when the actor passed by.

"Fernando, Fernando! *Si Abdul ito! Hindi mo na ako kilala* (This is Abdul! Don't you recognize me)?

Looking up, FPJ replied very politely that it was the first time he saw Abdul.

"*Ako yung nagsigaw sa iyo noong babarilin ka ni* Max Alvarado *sa kampanaryo kaya nakalingon ka at napatay mo si* Max (I was the one who shouted to you when Max Alvarado was about to shoot you in the back at the church bell tower. Because you were forewarned in time, you killed Max)," said Abdul.

Sounding bitter, Abdul told FPJ: "*Nakalimutan mo na ang nagligtas ng iyong buhay,* Fernando (You've forgotten the guy who saved your life)."

See, I told you how FPJ is popular among the masa!

* * *

I hope that despite the pressure being brought to bear on him by his friends and supporters, FPJ will not run.

FPJ should remember that he's already a legend. And he should make that legend remain.

FPJ will destroy that legend if he becomes President. He will go the way of "Erap" Estrada.

Stay in the movie world, Ronnie , where you have no equal. *Huwag kang pauto sa mga kaibigan mo.*

* * *

Ronnie, just like any other human being, also has his defects. One of them is that he doesn't know how to hold his drink.

FPJ has a Dr. Jekyll-Mr. Hyde personality. When he's sober, Ronnie is as meek and gentle as a lamb. But when he gets tipsy, he has the tendency to become violent.

Many years ago, a gay movie reporter wrote that FPJ had a small sex organ. FPJ chanced upon the movie scribe at a time when he was drunk. The actor reportedly beat up the scribe. Unzipping his fly before the hapless scribe, FPJ reportedly pissed on him.

* * *

I have nothing against Ronnie's drinking habits so long as he's able to control himself. But many times, I was told, he forgets that he should be a model of good behavior because of his bigger-than-life roles in the movies.

In the early days of martial law, FPJ and his friend Luis "Chavit" Singson slugged it out at the Makati Hotel as if they were doing it in the movies. That incident reached then Mayor Nemesio Yabut, owner of the hotel, and ordered both FPJ and Singson arrested if they set foot in Makati again.

* * *

FPJ has played a big influence on his close friend, Joseph Estrada. In fact, it was Ronnie who gave Estrada the name "Erap," which is an inverted word for pare. Ronnie also calls his other close friends "Erap."

What other influence did Ronnie have on Erap? Both pissed on persons who pissed them off.

When Erap was still San Juan mayor, he would order policemen who committed abuses against civilians to line up in formation. Then he would urinate on the legs of the abusive cops.

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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

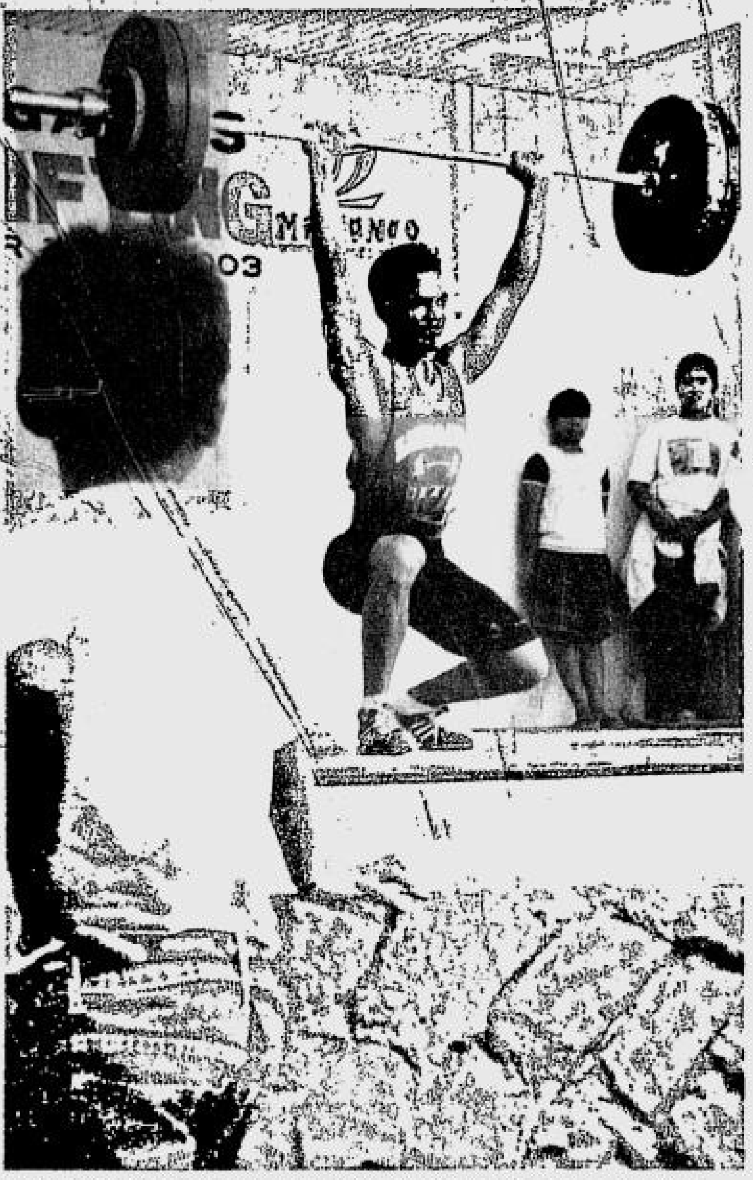
BASEBALL: MLB - World Series 2003 Game 4; 8 a.m. (r - 1:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.); ESPN - The Marlins and Yankees try to outdo each other in the Fall Classic.

GOLF: LPGA Longs Drug Challenge; 11:30 a.m. (r); ESPN - Third round action goes underway from California.

BASKETBALL: NBA Pre-season - Hawks vs Magic; 7 a.m. (r - 9 p.m.); Solar Sports - Atlanta faces Orlando in this warm-up to the regular season

MINDANAO GAMES

Zambo lifters sparkle



A BOY watches curiously as an entry from Zamboanga competes during the weightlifting competition of the Mindanao Friendship Games. EDWIN BACASMAS

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MATI, Davao Oriental—Zamboanga City woke up from slumber and started flexing its muscle to cart away 12 of the 13 gold medals at stake in weightlifting yesterday and momentarily steal the show from runaway leader Davao City in the 3rd Mindanao Friendship Games here.

That explosive show by Zamboanga City catapulted it to third place with 15 gold medals to boot, adding up the three victories it gained the previous days.

Iligan City remained at second place through the consistent performance of its swimmers who won six more events yesterday.

Monique Bacolod won her sixth gold medal in the 50-meter backstroke, while Shahani Navarro captured two in the women's 800m freestyle and 200m breast. Haroon Cali triumphed in the men's 1,500m freestyle.

Nianh Lin Acain added one more in the 200m butterfly before helping Bacolod, Navarro and Sola Viste succeed in the 400m medley relay.

"We are very proud of our swimmers," said Iligan City Mayor Franklin Quijano, who added that his wards trained in the swimming pool of President Arroyo's ancestral house which didn't have chlorine in it.

Davao City managed to avert that weightlifting sweep as Brix Labajo won the men's 85kg and upped the defending champion's gold-silver-bronze medal harvest to 33-42-31.

Scoring victories for Zamboanga City were lady lifters Cherry Mae Mendoza in the 44kg, Hidilyn Diaz 48kg, Maricel Mendoza 53kg, Southeast Asian Games veteran Cecilia Atilano 58 kg, Maygene Avery 63kg and Annie Revillas 69kg.

In the men's division, Allen Jayfus Diaz won the 47kg, his brother Arnold Diaz 51kg, Jaymark Perez 56kg, Jomar Napoloreyes 62kg, Ronald Colonia 69kg and Dante Apolinario 77kg.

Lanao del Sur plucked two golds in table tennis by ruling the women's team and mixed events. Cagayan de Oro reigned in the men's team competitions.

Davao City collared three duathlon gold medals through Johnny Yanong in the overall, Roxane Sayago in the female division and Keith James Argones in the men's 25-29 years.

The defending champion's bumper harvest came late Tuesday from athletics, karatedo and swimming.

Yesterday, Davao City gained some more from Norton Alamara who fished out his fifth and sixth gold medals from the pool through the men's 200m breaststroke and the 50m back.

Eric not distracted by rumored ouster

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain won't be distracted by rumors that he's going to be replaced.

"The President is working and I am working. The President is focusing and I am focusing on the job at hand," said Buhain, who attended the Congress budget hearing yesterday.

"The President's instructions are clear: Successful Mindanao Games, Palarong Pambansa and our country's participation in the Southeast Asian Games," he added.

Toward this end, Buhain has adopted hands-on management with the Mindanao Friendship Games being staged in Mati, Davao Oriental, and the Palarong Pambansa to be held in Tubod, Lanao del Norte, next week.

Meanwhile, Robert "Dodot" Jaworski Jr. confirmed reports that he was offered the PSC post in a press statement issued yesterday. Jaworski noted that "there has been obvious discontent in the way the PSC has turned from bad to worse in recent times." He also advised Buhain "to look at this issue as a wake-up call to reflect on the shortcomings of his administration."

Roy Luarca

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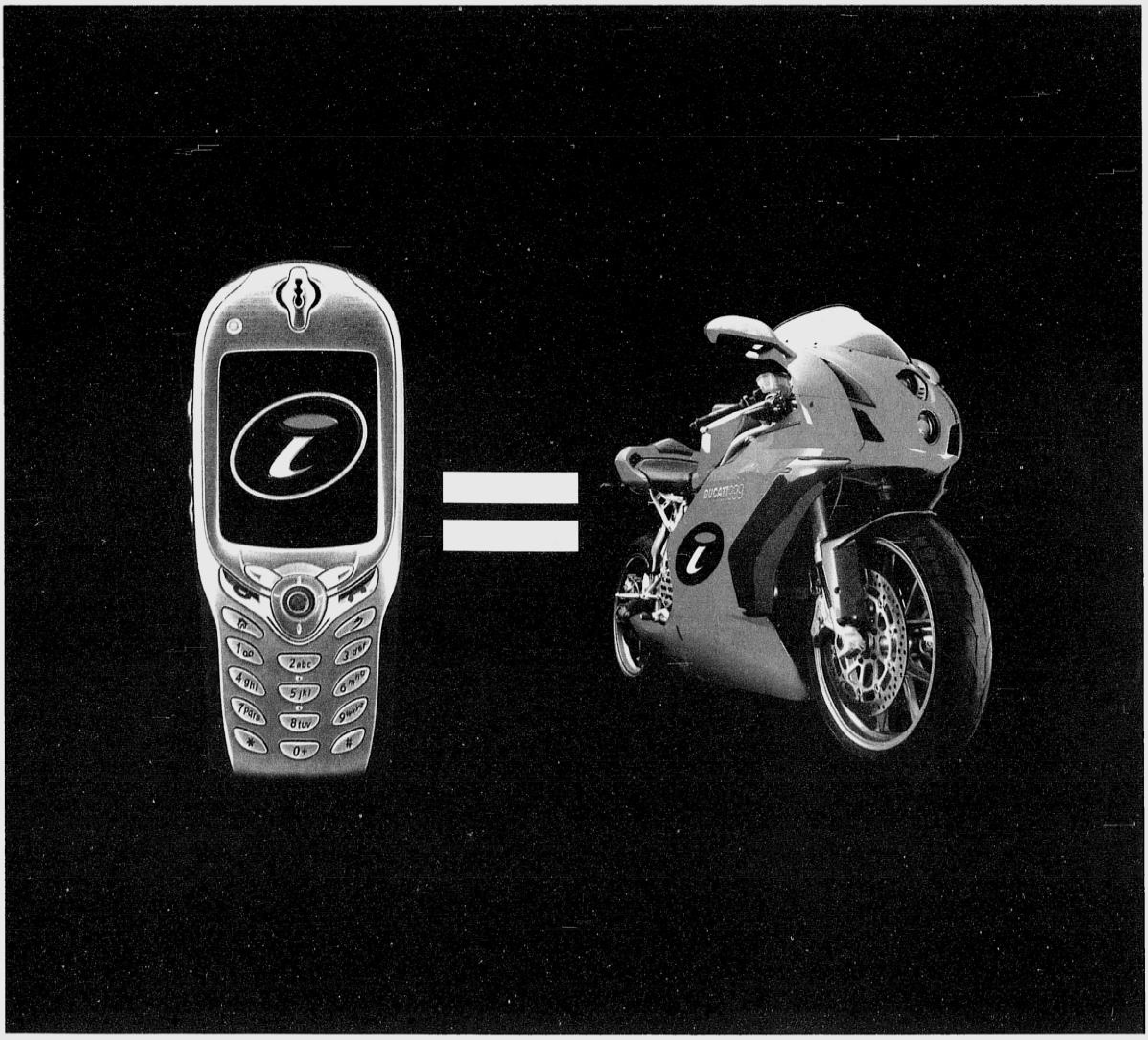


Meneses, 2 others named sportsmen of the week

FEDEX's Vergel Meneses, San Miguel Beer's Benjie Paras and Ginebra's Rob Johnson are the first recipients of the Sportsman of the Week citation of the PBA.

They were chosen for reaching out and bringing joy to fans during the league's outreach program in Baguio City, Lipa City and Metro Manila outskirts.

Meneses, Paras and Johnson thus became automatic candidates for the Sportsman of the Year citation that will be given by the PBA and the sponsoring First Gentleman Foundation at yearend.

"These players are an asset not only to the PBA but to the country, and the FG Foundation is more than happy to recognize their deeds, in the hope that more athletes would follow their shining example," said First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

Other awardees are Sta. Lucia Realty's Marlou Aquino, Coca-Cola's Rudy Hatfield, FedEx's Jerry Codiñera, Shell's Anthony dela Cruz, Red Bull's Lordy Tugade and Alaska's Don Allado.

They were chosen for their extra effort to entertain fans during road games over the last three months.

A third batch of awardees will be chosen to round out the list of candidates for Sportsman of the Year, who'll be getting P100,000 courtesy of the FG Foundation.

"We in the league take pride in these laudable deeds our players do for our fans, and we thank the First Gentleman Foundation for not only recognizing these deeds but also encouraging more of it in the future," said PBA commissioner Noli Eala.

Roy Luarca

MENESES: Asset to PBA.

Cruz, Salvador joint leaders at Eastridge

By Jong Arcano

THE QUIRKS of the scoring format got Cassius Casas on the throat yesterday even as Dan Cruz and Elmer Salvador emerged as the new leaders after Round 2 yesterday of the P1 million Eastridge Invitational in Binangonan, Rizal.

Cruz and Salvador each collected seven points for the second straight day for 14 points, stepping ahead by one over Tony Lascuna who went error-free and made four easy birdies in an eight-point round.

Cruz, 42, survived his putting woes from short range with a bounty of five birdies—including three in a row from the second—to boost his chances of ending a long victory drought.

Danny delos Santos likewise kept himself in the hunt for the P150,000 champion's prize with five points giving him solo fourth at 12, another point clear of Carito Villaroman and Benjie Magada.

Then came Casas, whose late collapse made an impact as significant as Magada's sensational 12-point rally in the tourney bankrolled by Mega Pro Resources, International and Overseas Professional Achievers International.

Casas, cruising along with seven points on four birdies and a bogey on the first 15 holes, went on a tailspin in the final stretch and yielded the lead with only two points in the round.

Casas hit tee-shot safely on the green on the par-3 16th only to make a four-putt miscue for a double-bogey that meant a three-point penalty. He also bogeyed the next two holes.

"I just blacked out on the 16th green. It's one of the toughest on the course and I need to get it out of my mind and get a better score in the last two rounds," Casas said.

Fancied Rey Pagunsan was even worse as the man who made the most money in the pro-am appetizer plunged to near-bottom after posting a -13 with a round of 82.

Magada didn't have any of the misfortunes that befell Casas and Pagunsan.

After ending up at minus one in the first round, Magada came through with a tournament-best five-under 67 on seven birdies and two bogeys.

Magada's sudden explosion gave him 12 points and his 11 for 36 holes put him at level with Carito Villaroman who made six.

Only the top 60 players out of the 110 who started on Tuesday qualified for the third round. The field will be further reduced to the top 30 and ties after today's round.

The points leaders:

14 - D. Cruz 7-7, E. Salvador 7-7; 13 - T. Lascuna 5-8; 12 - D. delos Santos 7-5; 11 - C. Villaroman 5-6, B. Magada -1-13; 10 - C. Casas 8-2; 9 - R. Alit 6-3; 8 - E. Ababa 3-5; 6 - R. Pactolerin 2-4

Golf tour 5th leg gets going today

CEBU's foremost amateur shotmakers take their chance to represent the city in the national finals when the fifth leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour and Putting Challenge is held today and tomorrow (Oct. 23-24) at the Cebu Country Club course.

A full-packed roster of 160 players are vying for the division titles with Eric Deen and George Hong returning to defend the titles they won in the championship and Class A, respectively, last year.

Deen headlines a big pack of 30 entries in the centerpiece category which also includes ex-pro Carl Almario, Montito Garcia who is fast-recovering from a surgery, Gene Aznar and the young Andre Borromeo who has the lowest handicap of 1.3.

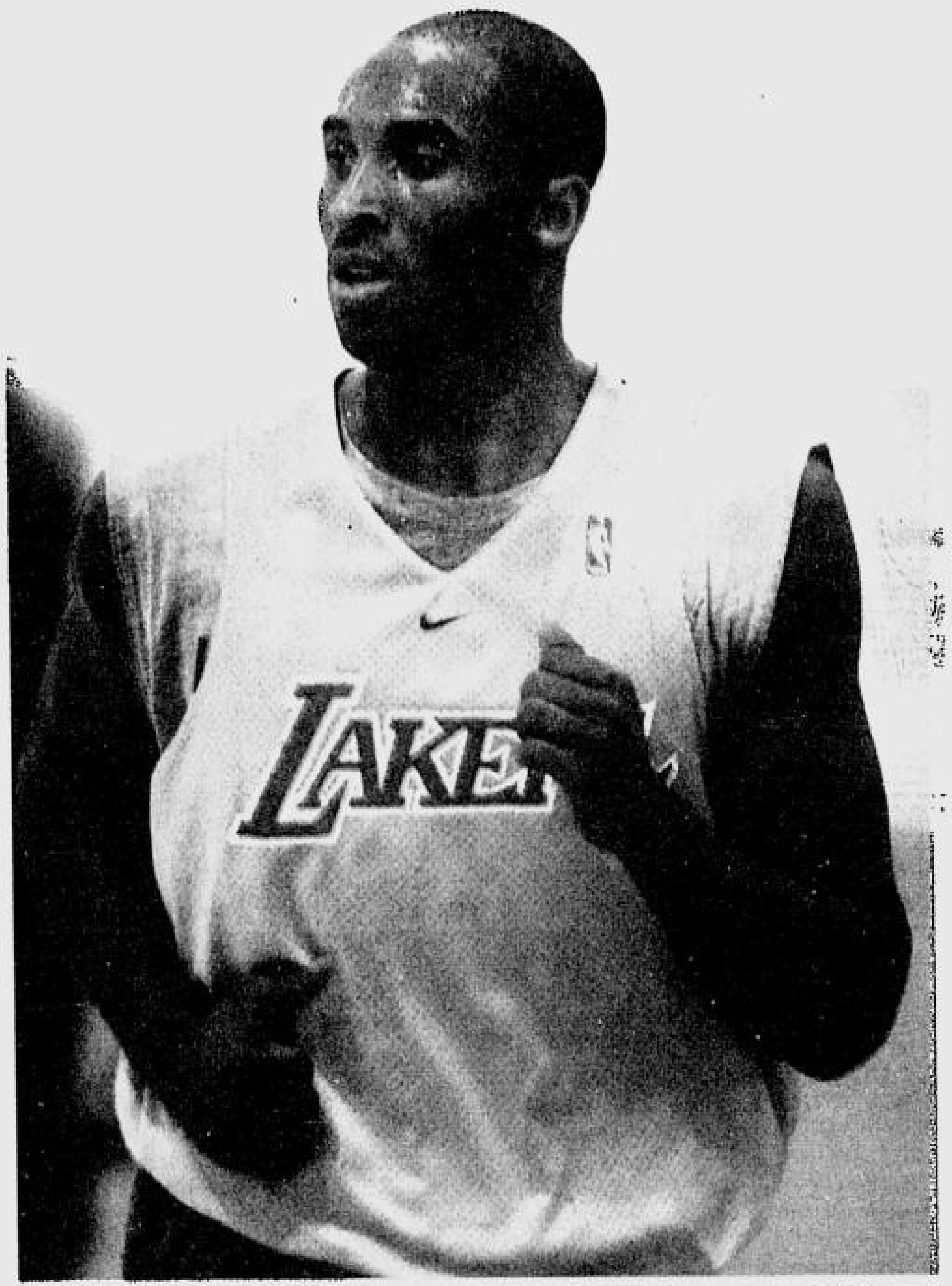
The Chiongbian brothers are also joining the 36-hole tourney in full force. Other prominent families represented in the registry are the Deens, Ugartes, Florendos, Lims, Tans, Garcias, among others.

Co-sponsoring the second season of the Samsung Tour organized by the Professional Sports Management Group are Mario's Restaurant, Wilson, Gatorade, Tokyo Tokyo, Microtel, Custom Clubmakers, Rogin-E and Dunlop Golf with radio stations Killer Bee, Citylite 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite as official media partners.

A bonanza of prizes from Samsung Philippines headed by Sang Youl Eom are stake.

RP netters to India

THE PHILIPPINE tennis team left yesterday to compete in the 1st Afro-Asian Games slated Oct. 24-Nov. 1 in Hyderabad, India. Johnny Arcilla, Joseph Victorino, Adelo Abadia, Czarina Mae Arevalo and Anna Patricia Santos compose the team being coached by Johnny Jose. Filipino boxers, tracksters and swimmers are also vying in the Games involving 44 Asian and 53 African countries.



BRYANT sprints upcourt during the Lakers practice Tuesday in El Segundo, Calif. Bryant plans to make his first exhibition appearance of the year Thursday when the Lakers play the Los Angeles Clippers in Anaheim. AP

Difficult testimony looms for Kobe Bryant accuser

EAGLE, Colorado—With questions raised about the quality of evidence in the Kobe Bryant sexual assault case, testimony from the NBA star and the woman accusing him of rape may play a crucial role at trial.

Bryant is familiar with the media and has already sat in front of TV cameras and admitted to adultery.

His 19-year-old accuser, however, will have to discuss graphic details of her encounter with the Los Angeles Lakers' guard and be ready for difficult questions from his attorneys — and may have to do so in front of an international television audience.

"She's had a lot of practice being attacked by the defense already," said Wendy Murphy, a victim's advocate and professor at the New England School of Law. "It helps build thick skin, helps prepare her and limit her anxiety."

Eagle County Judge Frederick Gannett ruled Monday that prosecutors presented enough evidence at Bryant's preliminary hearing to send the case to district court for a potential trial.

But in a nine-page ruling, Gannett said some of the evidence appeared to have questionable value and said prosecutors offered only enough to get the case to trial. Bryant's first appearance in district court is scheduled for Nov. 10.

Until then, legal analysts said, there will be little activity in the case. But they said prosecutors will probably begin preparing the woman for her role.

"It's a fairly long checklist of stuff they're going to have to go through with her, including taking the sting out of the defense case," said David Lugert, a former state and federal prosecutor.

That could mean uncomfortable questions from both sides about her sexual past, mental health and medical history, Lugert said.

Little is known about the accuser, and her identity has not been disclosed by major media outlets, including The Associated Press.

AP

Purefoods tops FedEx; Coke wins

By June Navarro

GAMES TOMORROW (Makati Coliseum)

5 p.m.—
Red Bull vs Shell
7:30 p.m.—
Sta. Lucia vs FedEx

LENNY Cooke got the much-needed shot in the arm from his local teammates as Purefoods posted a come-from-behind 90-84 win over Federal Express last night in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Philsports Arena.

Andy Seigle and Billy Mamaril amply filled the gap left momentarily by Cooke to sustain the Hotdogs' fiery run on the way to their second straight victory. It was the first back-to-back win for the Hotdogs in six and a half months.

Cooke got hit by cramps on his left calf, forcing Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio to bench his power-playing import for more than five minutes in the final period.

During Cooke's absence, Mamaril dished out two spectacular assists to Seigle and converted an undergoal stab of his own as the Hotdogs held their ground after rallying from 12 points down.

"What you saw out there were manifestations of the team's attitude the past two games. Although Cooke was on the bench, the locals gladly stepped up," said Gregorio, whose Hotdogs snapped a winless run against the Express in four meetings.

The Hotdogs tied their victims at 3-7 for the last quarterfinal slot in Group A.

More important, the game showed Gregorio and his troops are getting back on the groove after a long losing spell, including a six-game slide prior to winning over the Alaska Aces and the Express.

The Express, who missed Vergel Meneses due to a hamstring injury for the second straight game, tasted their third consecutive defeat, putting their quarterfinal bid in danger.

Cooke had another monster game, specially in the third period when the Hotdogs erased a 53-41 deficit.

Cooke scored 13 of his game-high 39 points in that span and hauled down 28 rebounds, erasing the previous high of Asi Taulava (26).

"He (Cooke) gives a lot of energy to the team. Sometimes he's a little bit childish, but he has a lot of talent which makes the team look better. I just have to be patient with him," said Gregorio.

In the other game, Group B solo leader Coca-Cola scraped past Talk N Text, 97-93, for its 11th win in 12 games. The Phone Pals fell into a tie with the Barangay Ginebra Kings at 6-5 in the same group.

Artemus Mcclary topscored for the Tigers with 29 points, followed by Jeffrey Cariaso with 23. Ato Morano added 12, including two free throws in the dying seconds that bailed Coke out of trouble.

Scores:

PUREFOODS 90—Cooke 39, Raymundo 14, Evangelista 11, Seigle 9, Castillo 6, Santos 6, Mamaril 3, Fernandez 2, Patrimonio 0, Demape 0.

FEDEX 84—Ferriols 18, Ritualo 18, Shannon 15, De Ocampo 8, Billones 7, Rodriguez 7, Rodriguez 6, Codinera 6, Yap 4, Arboleda 2, Bernardo 0.

Quarters: 21-24, 41-51, 71-67, 90-84.

Ozamiz joins NBL meet

DEFENDING champion Ozamiz City is joining the 2003 Panasonic Cup National Basketball League Regional Conference which kicks off tomorrow at the Florante Aquino Stadium in Quezon City.

The last-minute entry of Ozamiz City, owned by Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog and coached by Francis Rodriguez, brings to nine the participating teams in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, BJ Star Logistics, Sulpicio Lines, Molten Basketball, Nature's Spring and Vaporin.

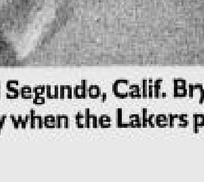
Games will be televised over IBC-13 and Destiny Cable's Prime Channel 61 through the facilities of Silverstar Communications Inc.

Meanwhile, Panasonic Phils. will hold a press conference at 1:30 p.m. today at Oriental Mandarin Hotel to launch the Panasonic Cup NBL tourney.

Sarreal's side

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



"I did not snatch him."

It's Jun Sarreal on the phone.

"One of your colleagues said I lured him to come to me," he said. "And you wrote that I snatched him. You are both wrong."

Before I lay down the details of his call, first the introductions.

Jun Sarreal is the son of the great and lamented Lope "Papa" Sarreal. Papa Sarreal, who died some years back at past 90, put the Philippines in the world map by, first, making Flash Elorde the world junior lightweight champion in 1960. Next, he would approve of having Da Flash the husband of his daughter, Laura. Papa Sarreal, who was an acknowledged international musician who made a living out of it in Shanghai when Shanghai was still known as the Sin Capital of the world, holds the record of having made Elorde the longest reigning Filipino world champion: Seven years. Papa Sarreal has outlived Elorde, who died of cancer in 1986; Papa Sarreal would pass away many more years after that due to old age. But before he died, Papa Sarreal cooked *lechon kawali*—sleeves rolled, Cuban tobacco between his lips—in the backyard of his rest house in Cavite which we would partake as *pulutan* during one drinking spree many years back. Ah, he was more than a jolly, good fella. Lovable and cuddly like a Panda bear, too.

Jun Sarreal, to detail his call, said he did not snatch Edgar Rodrigo from Mira Murayama, the Japanese manager of Rodrigo. Rodrigo it was who dethroned Z Gorrès as Philippine flyweight champion in June 1.

"Rodrigo came to me, complaining of not receiving any help from Murayama after the boxer's daughter had fallen ill," said Sarreal. "I gave him P5,000, and next told me he was leaving Murayama."

Sarreal said Rodrigo has made known his plaints against Murayama to the Games and Amusements Board.

"When Senator Revilla read your column about me and Rodrigo, the senator called me up immediately," said Sarreal. "He said I must clear my name immediately and thus, this call to you."

I told Jun Sarreal no problem, fine. I was just reporting what happened. And what happened was, Gorres was entitled to a rematch with Rodrigo as stipulated in the fight contract. With Rodrigo now taken in by Sarreal, the rematch has taken a bizarre twist.

According to Sarreal, Rodrigo has a new opponent in December.

"Gorres is now out of the picture," said Sarreal. "Rodrigo is set to meet a guy named Dolayre in December 1."

I told him that will complicate matters as the Rodrigo-Gorres rematch is supposed to be set for Dec. 13 in Subic, with Moy Lainez, as owner of the fight option, as the promoter anew. That option in the fight contract between Rodrigo and Gorres has been approved by the GAB. How can the Rodrigo-Dolayre fight on Dec. 1 be sanctioned by the GAB in the wake of the Rodrigo-Gorres fight on Dec. 13?

"As I said, Gorres is out," insisted Sarreal. "Besides, I heard Gorres is moving up from 112 to 115 lb. So that makes everything moot and academic."

Oh, well, what about Rudy Salud's plan to exhaust administrative remedies for the Rodrigo-Gorres fight to materialize on Dec. 13? And if the GAB wouldn't budge, Salud would appeal to the Office of the President? If that still would not work, he'd go to the courts for a TRO (temporary restraining order).

The GAB itself has become the problem for seemingly not honoring the fight contract in the Rodrigo-Gorres fight. And, shamelessly, Jun Sarreal has added himself to the problem by accepting Rodrigo under his wings on Rodrigo's pretext that Rodrigo has been, is being, mistreated by Murayama.

Which is which now?

Confusing, if not shocking. But to me, the biggest shock is not the GAB's seeming consistency to muddle things when issues come its way. The biggest shock is when Jun Sarreal, Papa Sarreal's son, seems bent on sullying the name of his father.

"And, yes, for the record, I am not Edgar Rodrigo's manager," said Jun Sarreal. "I am only his adviser."

I can believe that. I hope even the marines can believe that, too.

***

FASTBREAK. This early, Bert Cuevas, the Manila Standard sports editor who is president of the Philippine Sportswriters Association, has reason to celebrate. All indications point to President Macapagal gracing the PSA Athletes Awards Night in January. That'd be a big rebound for GMA, who skipped the PSA Awards Night for the nation's sports heroes in 2002 led by Asian Games gold medallist Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski in equestrian.

SPORTSWATCH

Badminton gets major boost

LOCAL badminton got a major boost when former Parañaque mayor Pablo Olivarez built a P4-million, world-class badminton center recently at the Olivarez Sports Complex. Olivarez, father of former national tennis champion and 1993 Singapore SEA Games gold medalist Eva, said the center has 15 International Badminton-approved Modo sports courts that can accommodate the growing number of badminton players, especially the youth. "Badminton is one sport where the Filipino can excel. We have sports heroes like Felix Barrientos and Roland So in tennis and Efren "Bata" Reyes in billiards, therefore, we can also produce great players in badminton," said Olivarez, who is currently chair of the Philippine Tennis Association.

Luzon derby resumes at Roligon

THE SECOND round of the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 7-Stag Derby is slated at Roligon Mega Cockpit today, with well-known cockers and breeders seeing action. Among the early favorites are the entries of hotelier-sportsman Biboy of Enriquez, Esting Teopaco of Tarlac, engineer Jun Sevilla, 2002 LGBA Cocker of the Year Rep. Lawrence Wacnang, Ram Lopez, Benjie Lim, Alex Tan and LGBA president Boy Diaz, among others. Backing the stagfest are sponsors Washout Shampoo, Pitfighter Feeds, Enertone, Derby Ace, Amtyl 1500, Supremo Pellets at Strike Power Pellets. Meanwhile, an early Christmas treat for breeders happens on Nov. 29, Dec. 2, 4 and 6 as top promoter Rolly Ligon presents the "Apordabol Na, Incredibol Pa 5-Cock Derby." For a low entry fee of P8,800 only, Ligon guarantees the P2.25 million prize. An imported Nissan Serena awaits the Fastest Kill champion.

Female rider notches best finish

WACKY del Rosario capped a fruitful season for Team Petron Blaze with a third-place podium finish in the championship round of the 2003 National Super Bikes Series recently at the Batangas Racing Circuit. The lone female rider, Del Rosario notched her best finish on her second season in the premiere Expert division despite using a less superior bike. First placer was Benjo Mendoza while runnerup was Randy Ortiz. ``It's really hard keeping up with the guys who are riding on better machines. I tried to push myself to the limit and I thank God I made it third in both races," said Del Rosario. Petron Blaze Novice bet Julian Goitia also wound up third twice while Norman Valle and Maite Villegas ended fifth and seventh, respectively.

Barbosa heads chess contingent

ASEAN under-16 champion Oliver Barbosa and University of the Philippines standout Arianne Aguja head the Philippine team seeing action in the World Youth Chess Championships in Haldiki, Greece. Barbosa, 27th place in the same event in 2001, and Aguja are competing in the boys' and girls' 18-year-old- and-under categories. Other Filipinos entered are Julius Joseph de Ramos and Sherilyn Cua (Under 16), Nelson Mariano III and Cindy Atayde (Under 14), Karl Victor Ochoa and Cheyser Crystal Mendoza (Under 12) and Wesley So and Jan Jodilyn Fronda (Under 10). More than 1,000 players are expected to see action in the tournament to be held simultaneously with the 74th Fide (World) Congress. Meanwhile, National Chess Federation of the Philippines secretary general lawyer Samuel Estimo said yesterday that they have already paid the association's Fide dues of Swiss Franc 6,000 (about P248,000) and are expecting that the Philippine ratings will be back in the World Chess Federation soon. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Ulanday invt'l tourney in Alabang

THE SOUTHERN Chess Association (SCA) is hosting the second 2050 and below invitational chess team championships dubbed as the Chairman Victor Ulanday Cup from Oct. 25-26 at the Commerce Mall Area of the Alabang Town Center in Muntinlupa City. The SCA is headed by lawyer Constant Marcaida (president), Jojo Olivarez (chair) and Joel Hicap (secretary general). Invited to grace the opening rites in this two-day affair are Press Secretary Ignacio "Toting" Bunye, Muntinlupa City Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, Vice Mayor Jojay Alcaraz, Cory Quirino, Alabang chair Vic Ulanday and ATC head Maricris Bernardino. Interested parties may call Hicap at 0917-321-1517.

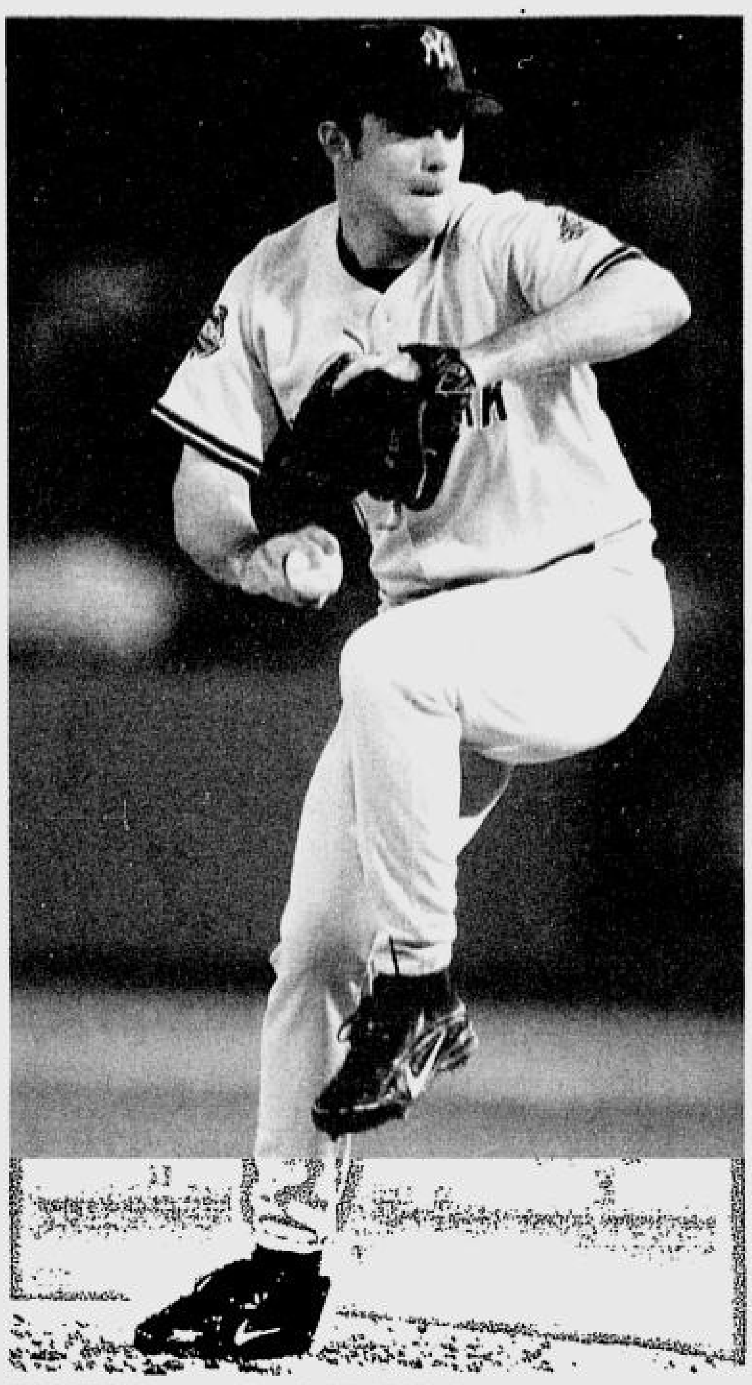
NM Marlon Bernardino

WORLD SERIES

'Moose' delivers, lifts Yankees to 2-1 lead

LINESCORES

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
FLORIDA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	0
NEW YORK	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	6	6	1



MUSSINA throws against the Florida Marlins. AFP

MIAMI—For the longest time, this had all the makings of another heartbreaker for Mike Mussina.

Down early. Hardly any run support. A rainy, messy night.

And yet somehow, the ace who could never quite win these games won Game 3 of the World Series. Mussina outpitched young ace Josh Beckett and the New York Yankees broke it open late, beating the Florida Marlins 6-1 Tuesday night for a 2-1 edge.

"Moose just kept it together," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

Derek Jeter doubled for his third hit and scored the go-ahead run on Hideki Matsui's single in the eighth inning. Aaron Boone homered in the ninth and then Bernie Williams hit his record 19th postseason homer to clinch it.

By then, Mussina's work was done. Mariano Rivera finished it off in rapid fashion, closing with two innings for a save as the Yankees won before a crowd of 65,731 that had mostly left Pro Player Stadium by the final out.

Now, after their second straight victory, the Yankees will try to take firm hold of the Series behind Roger Clemens.

Clemens pitches Wednesday night (Thursday morning in Manila) in the final scheduled start of his Hall of Fame career. Carl Pavano, who grew up in Connecticut rooting for the Rocket and later watched him while a prospect in the Boston system, goes for the Marlins in Game 4.

"This game means absolutely nothing if we don't come back and win tomorrow," Jeter said.

Florida finally managed to get an extra-base hit after 13 singles, but has scored only five runs in three games.

"It's not an easy task against those guys," Marlins manager Jack McKeon said.

JETER jubilates. AP

Despite his 199 career wins and Cy Young potential, Mussina had never quite delivered the ultimate big game for the Yankees. Then again, New York never made it easy for him, seeming to rarely score when he was on the mound.

Mussina had been 0-3 in this postseason, losing once to Minnesota and twice to Boston. But it wasn't all his fault, as the Yankees couldn't get a lead for him to hold.

Mussina made the first relief appearance of his career, turning in three scoreless innings against the Red Sox in Game 7 of the American League championship series, in an effort that Torre said saved the Yankees' season.

He didn't quite save it this time, but did a lot toward putting the Yankees halfway to their record 27th championship. *AP*

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA
BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Epic Energy 2. Friendly Lover 3. Quedan
Race 2--1. Boss Abi 2. Cast D Net 3. Order of Merit 4. Playing Cool
Race 3--1. Diabolo Don 2. Favorite Trick 3. Green Buck
Race 4--1. Nakagayak 2. With Feeling 3. War Epic 4. Longshot Tony 5. Golden Prince
Race 5--1. Sense of Justice 2. Sunny Sky 3. Doña Luisa 4. Black Force
Race 6--1. Dynamic Jason 2. Real Gem 3. Golden Sunshine 4. Maginoo's Pride 5. Rosa Valentina
Race 7--1. Tiger Winnie 2. Ivisan Queen 3. Blue Iris 4. Yonder Girl 5. Firehouse
Race 8--1. Morning After 2. Dancing Kiara 3. Half Moon Princess 4. Hinobaan Boy 5. Chances Are
Race 9--1. Magic Bullet 2. Sagittarius 3. Pirouette 4. Zero Gravity 5. Morning Neil 6. Don't Tell Me

'Rocket' all set to fire one last time

MIAMI—The end for Roger Clemens will come a few hundred kilometers (miles) from where ir all began in the minor leagues 20 years ago, pitching against a team that didn't exist, in a ballpark that wasn't built.

"I'll be happy, yet I'll be sad," he said Tuesday, the look on his face alternating between boyish grin and melancholy. "I'm just grateful for this opportunity to be able to go out there again on the grandest stage."

He made his final regular season start last month, then had three games in the playoffs against Minnesota and Boston that could have been the end. Now, there's more ifs.

Barring something unexpected, the Rocket will fire for the last time Wednesday night (Thursday morning in Manila), making his final major league start when he pitches for the New York Yankees against the Florida Marlins in Game 4 of the World Series.

He is baseball's only six-time Cy Young Award winner, his 310-160 record leaves him 17th on the career list and his 4,099 strikeouts place him third.

For a new generation of hot young arms, the 41-year-old is the shining example, showing how to work hard nearly every day. *AP*

'Shoe' remembered as a giant—and friend

ARCADIA, California—Chris McCarron remembered Bill Shoemaker as larger than life, both in and out of the saddle.

"He was 4-foot-11 (1.50 meters), but when he walked into a room, he was a giant," McCarron said Tuesday at a memorial service for Shoemaker in the winner's circle at Santa Anita.

"He truly was a giant."

McCarron, a Hall of Fame rider who was a friend and competitor during 12 years of Shoemaker's glittering career that spanned four decades, joined Eddie Delahoussaye, Laffit Pincay Jr., Gary Stevens and Don Pierce to remember the rider they all called "Shoe."

Shoemaker died in his sleep Oct. 12 at his San Marino home, a few kilometers (miles) from Santa Anita. He was 72.

Large photos of Shoemaker—as a young man, later in his career and with his daughter Amanda—were displayed. The track where Shoemaker rode many of his 8,333 career winners served as a backdrop.

The four-time Kentucky Derby winner was the first jockey to reach $100 million in career earnings in 1985. His last race was Feb. 3, 1990, and a year later Shoemaker was paralyzed from the neck down in an auto accident.

There was no racing at the track on Tuesday, and an estimated 700 people attended the service. Shoemaker's former wife, Cindy, and their daughter Amanda, 23, sat in the front.

McCarron, who earlier comforted Pierce because he was so choked up he couldn't talk, recalled some of the lighter moments with Shoemaker, a prankster in the jocks' room.

JOCKEY Gary Stevens wipes tears as he delivers a speech at a public memorial service for Shoemaker. AP

"I wasn't here for more than a week, and I started to get dressed and my boots were glued to the floor. A few days later, I put my feet into my boots and there was shaving cream in them," McCarron said, smiling. "That's what Bill did to make you feel comfortable."

Pierce, when he was finally able to speak, said, "I first met Shoe 45 years ago. I was introduced to him in the room—and he burned me with a spoon."

Pincay, who topped Shoemaker's record by riding 9,530 winners, called his friend, "The greatest rider ever." *AP*

Santos riding Volponi in BC

ARCADIA, California—Funny business, horse racing. Just ask jockey Jose Santos.

Six months after the greatest victory of his career aboard Volponi in the 2002 Breeders' Cup Classic, Santos scored an even greater triumph by winning the Kentucky Derby aboard Funny Cide.

Santos returns to the $4 million Breeders' Cup Classic on Saturday at Santa Anita, and guess what? He'll be reunited with Volponi and—for the first time—will compete against Funny Cide as well as eight other likely starters.

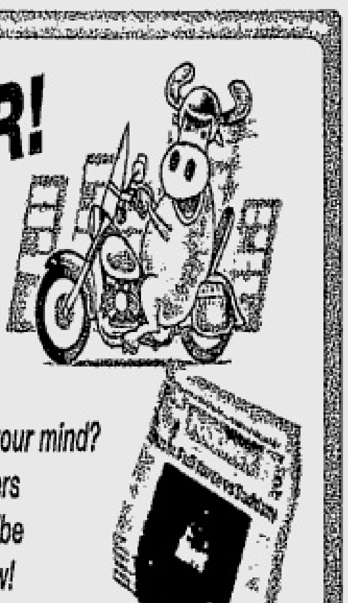
Neither horse should be among the favorites in the finale of the eight-race, $14 million Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships, but it sure makes a terrific subplot.

"It's funny how it worked out," Santos said. "Funny Cide gave me the thrill of a lifetime in the Derby. Now I have to go out and beat him in the Breeders' Cup. On the other hand, Volponi gave me a win in the biggest race I ever rode in."

Among the top horses coming into the Classic are Congaree, Medaglia d'Oro, Perfect Drift and Ten Most Wanted. The draw for post positions is Wednesday. Volponi is 0-for-7 this year, while Funny Cide hasn't raced since Aug. 3 and lost his last two races.

While riding conflicts occur frequently among the top riders, this one is a little different. A little more emotional since the Funny Cide family of Santos, journeyman trainer Barclay Tagg and those lovable owners from upstate New York were thought to be inseparable.

Funny Cide wasn't supposed to run in the Classic. *AP*



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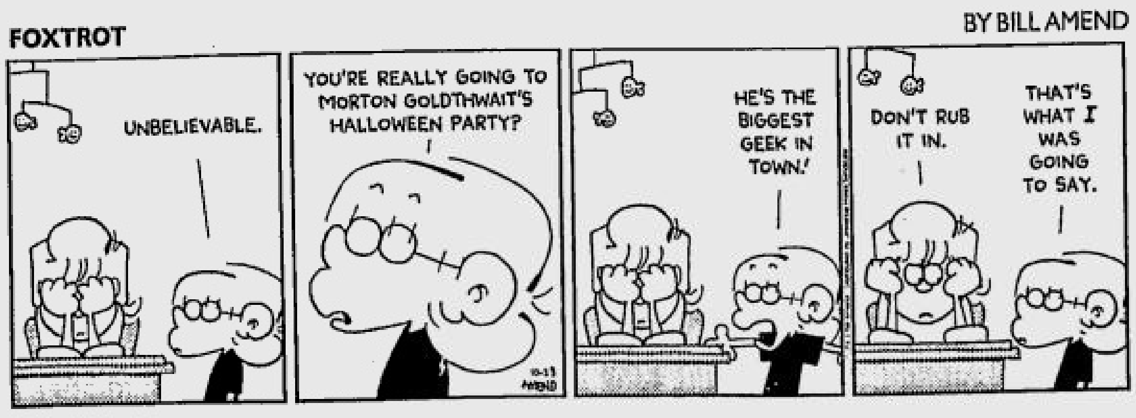
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2003

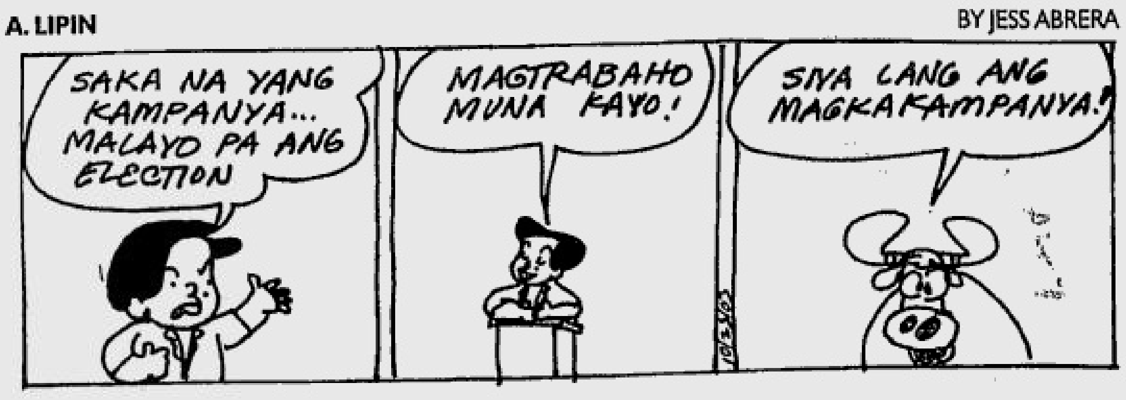
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


UNBELIEVABLE.
YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO MORTON GOLDTHWAIT'S HALLOWEEN PARTY?
HE'S THE BIGGEST GEEK IN TOWN!
DON'T RUB IT IN.
THAT'S WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY.
10-23 AMEND

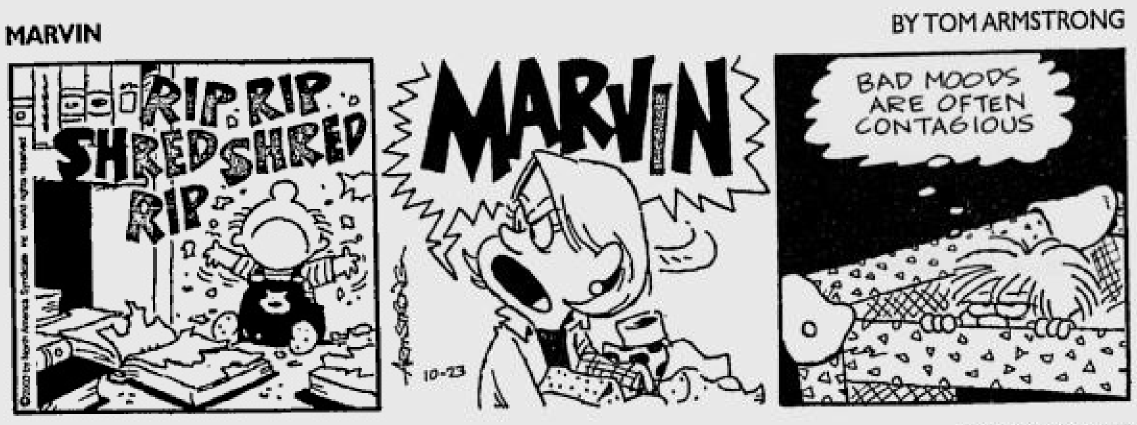
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SAKA NA YANG KAMPANYA... MALAYO PA ANG ELECTION
MAGTRABAHO MUNA KAYO!
SIYA LANG ANG MAGKAKAMPANYA!

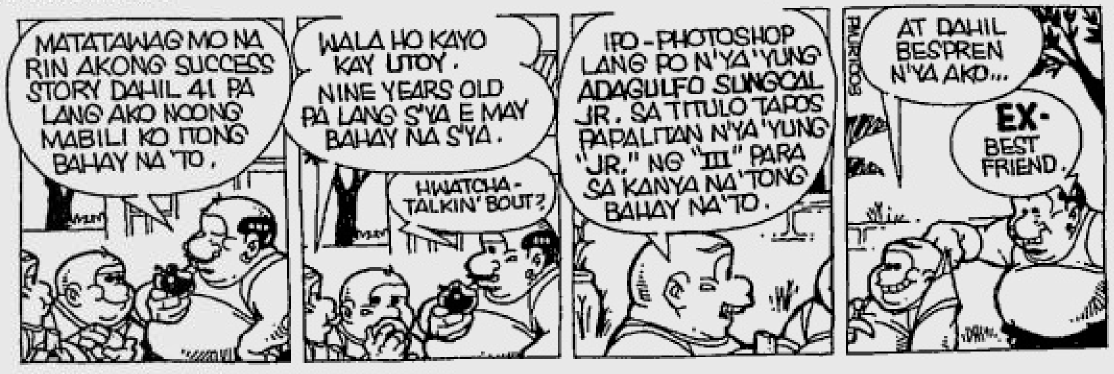
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


RIP RIP SHRED SHRED RIP
MARVIN
BAD MOODS ARE OFTEN CONTAGIOUS
10-23

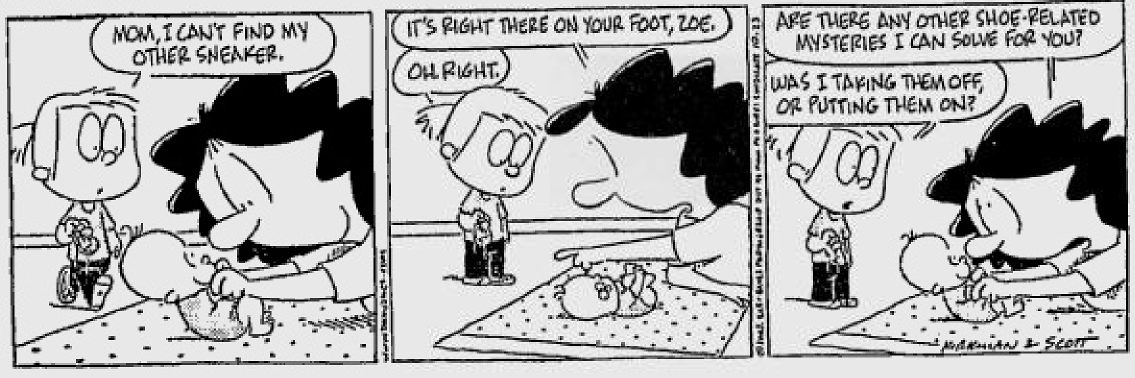
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MATATAWAG MO NA RIN AKONG SUCCESS STORY DAHIL 41 PA LANG AKO NOONG MABILI KO ITONG BAHAY NA 'TO.
WALA HO KAYO KAY UTOY. NINE YEARS OLD PA LANG S'YA E MAY BAHAY NA S'YA.
HWATCHA-TALKIN' BOUT?
IPO-PHOTOSHOP LANG PO N'YA 'YUNG ADAGULFO SUNGCAL JR. SA TITULO TAPOS PAPALITAN N'YA 'YUNG "JR." NG "III" PARA SA KANYA NA 'TONG BAHAY NA 'TO.
AT DAHIL BESPREN N'YA AKO...
EX-BEST FRIEND.

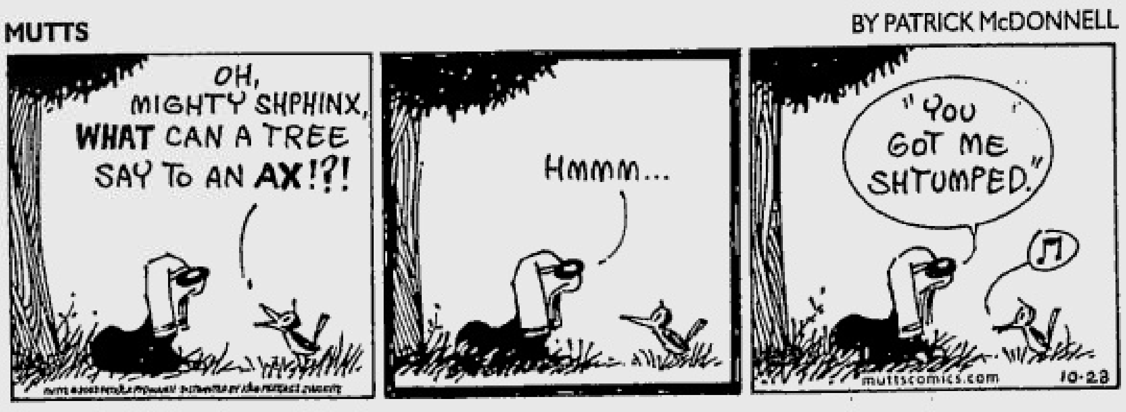
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOM, I CAN'T FIND MY OTHER SNEAKER.
IT'S RIGHT THERE ON YOUR FOOT, ZOE.
OH, RIGHT.
ARE THERE ANY OTHER SHOE-RELATED MYSTERIES I CAN SOLVE FOR YOU?
WAS I TAKING THEM OFF, OR PUTTING THEM ON?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

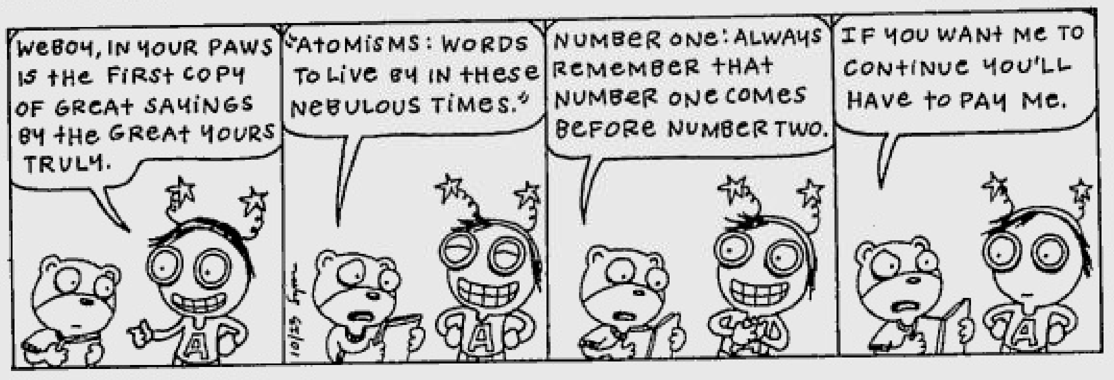
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, MIGHTY SHPHINX, WHAT CAN A TREE SAY TO AN AX!?!
Hmmm...
"YOU GOT ME SHTUMPED."
muttscomics.com
10-23

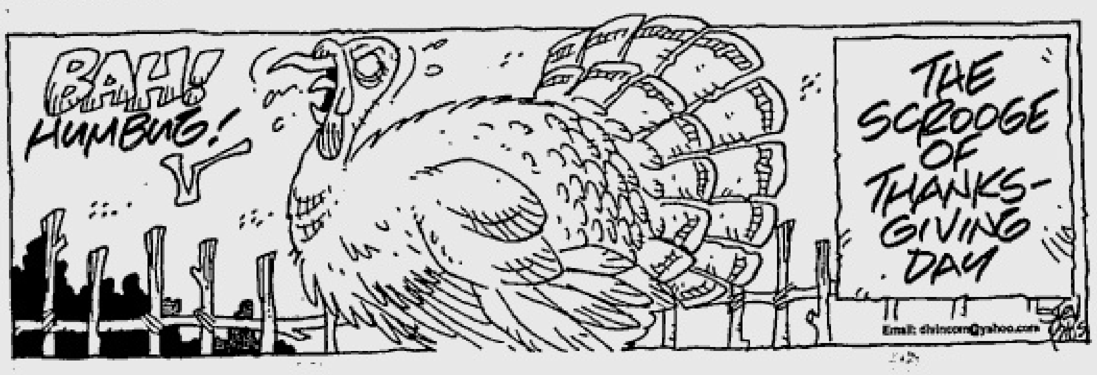
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WEBOY, IN YOUR PAWS IS THE FIRST COPY OF GREAT SAYINGS BY THE GREAT YOURS TRULY.
"ATOMISMS: WORDS TO LIVE BY IN THESE NEBULOUS TIMES."
NUMBER ONE: ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT NUMBER ONE COMES BEFORE NUMBER TWO.
IF YOU WANT ME TO CONTINUE YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY ME.
10/23

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


BAH! HUMBUG!
THE SCROOGE OF THANKS-GIVING DAY
Email: divincom@yahoo.com

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're bright, lively and energetic. You do things quickly, and you're passionate about whatever you do. Because you focus on one area so intently, it is sometimes challenging to achieve balance in your life. You're versatile and excellent at improvisation. You seek out excitement. Your closest relationships are your focus this year.

Birthdate of: Ang Lee, director; Ryan Reynolds, actor; Johnny Carson, TV host.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): In the month ahead, you'll be concerned with wills, estates, insurance matters and reaching a compromise with the values of others. You will sort through a lot of red tape.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Today the Sun moves opposite your sign, putting it as far away from you as it gets all year. This is why you need more rest.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Act on your desire to get better organized at work and at home. You want to turn over a new leaf. Great! Roll up your sleeves and get down to it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Romance, love affairs, entertaining diversions, vacations and playful times promise you much fun in the month ahead. Lighten up. Decide to enjoy yourself.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Without question, your focus turns to home, family and real estate now and for the next four to six weeks. Enjoy family discussions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your busy schedule keeps you hopping. Short trips, appointments, schedules and increased time with siblings and neighbors keep you on the go.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You are focused on money—cash in and cash out—more than usual now. You don't want money dribbling away in the corners. You want to get the most bang for your buck.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): The Sun enters your sign today. This means it is your turn to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year. It's all right to put yourself first now and in the next four weeks.

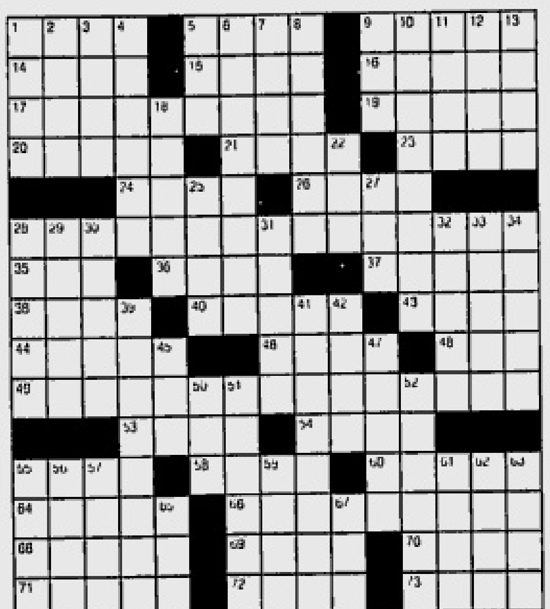
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Try to get extra rest and solitude if you can in the next few weeks. It's time to take stock by reviewing the past year.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your popularity rating is on the rise. Invitations will start to pour in now. This is not a time to go it alone. Join the gang and swap lies.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): In all likelihood, you will be singled out for extra responsibilities in some way. This thrusts you in the limelight in the weeks ahead. Don't be afraid—you can handle it without doing anything special.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your desire to escape monotony and routine is growing within you now. You need to blow town! (Take a different route home from work.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

10/23/03

ACROSS
1 Return to liquid
5 Gillette razor
9 Gem State
14 Luau dance
15 Syngman __
16 Exterior
17 Start of Satchel Paige quote
19 WWII sub
20 Scarlett's love
21 Bridle part
23 Kin of refs
24 Huge time
26 Bread buy
28 Part 2 of quote
35 Abner's size
36 All over again
37 Discover
38 Humanistic disciplines
40 Ansel or Abigail
43 From Bangkok
44 Gas lights
46 Charged particles
48 Giant great
49 Part 3 of quote
53 Wall Street pesimist
54 To be in Toulon
55 Wound crust
58 Swindles
60 Like some gases
64 Give a name to
66 End of quote
68 Soap or horse follower
69 Jazzy Fitzgerald
70 __ Domini
71 Nonmalignant growth
72 Calendar units
73 Tramp's girlfriend

DOWN
1 __ she blows!
2 Hefner or Downs
3 Away from the weather
4 Restaurant employee
5 Escort's offer
6 Had a craving
7 Russo or Descartes
8 Circus Maximus official
9 Chit
10 Founder of Art Brut
11 Minuscule particle
12 Pile
13 Table scraps
18 Plant pore
22 Also not
25 Granny
27 Be ill
28 Chan portrayer Warner
29 Small songbird
30 Singer John
31 Huck Finn's creator
32 Loudmouth lummox
33 Speechify
34 College credits
39 Airs and affectation
41 Without arrogance
42 State of agitation
45 Sault __ Marie, MI
47 Parallel bands
50 Brit's raincoat
51 Pressed
52 Of teeth
55 Pig feed
56 Key changer
57 First victim
59 Vincent Lopez theme song
61 Sicilian landmark
62 Tear
63 Ilium
65 Once around the track
67 Pas' mates

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

L	O	R	N	A	■	A	L	E	S	■	S	P	E	C
U	S	A	I	R	■	L	E	N	O	■	T	I	L	L
C	H	U	C	K	W	A	G	O	N	■	E	Z	I	O
K	A	L	E	■	O	R	C	■	A	M	A	Z	O	N
■	■	■	T	I	M	■	U	L	T	I	M	A	T	E
B	A	B	Y	C	A	R	R	I	A	G	E	■	■	■
I	R	E	■	K	N	E	L	T	■	■	R	A	D	S
A	N	A	L	Y	S	T	■	C	L	A	S	S	I	C
S	O	D	A	■	■	A	S	H	E	R	■	T	O	O
■	■	■	S	H	O	P	P	I	N	G	C	A	R	T
R	E	T	A	I	L	E	R	■	G	O	A	■	■	■
I	M	A	G	E	D	■	E	S	T	■	S	A	I	D
D	O	I	N	■	B	E	A	C	H	B	U	G	G	Y
E	T	N	A	■	A	L	D	A	■	B	A	R	O	N
S	E	T	S	■	G	I	S	T	■	C	L	A	R	E

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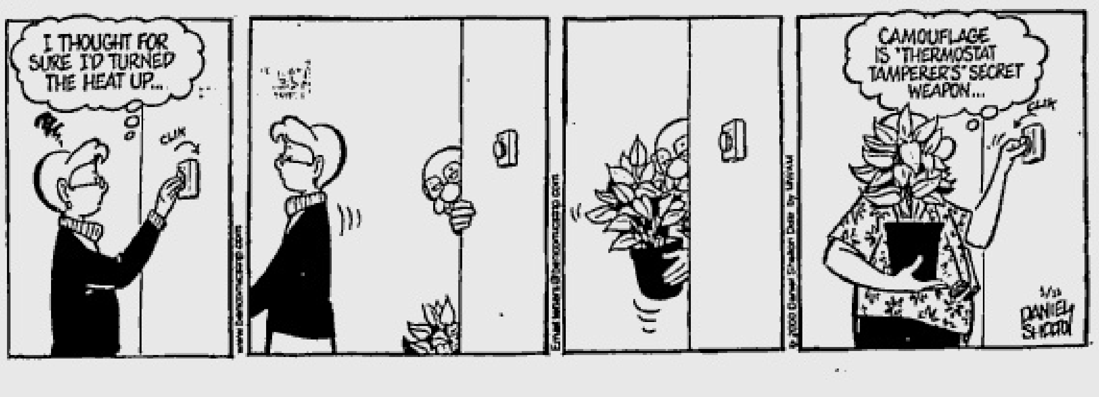
10/23/03

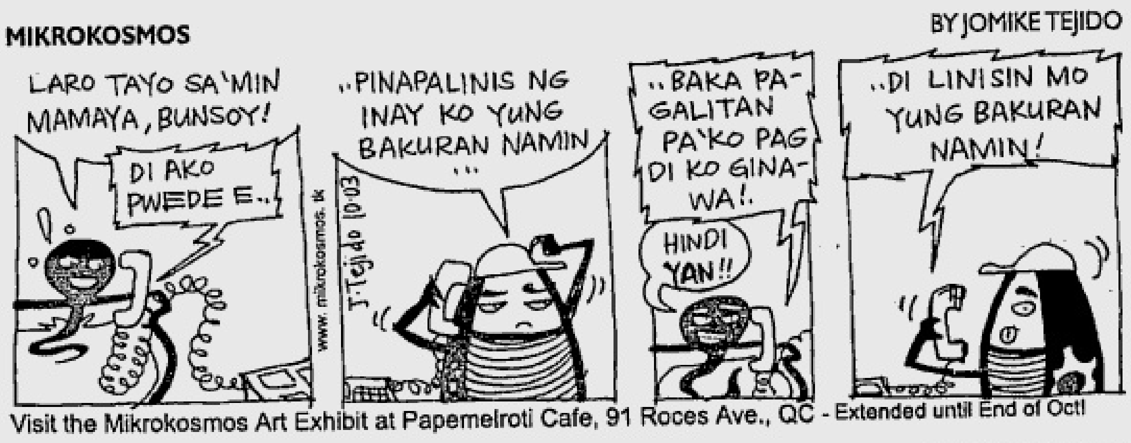
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I THOUGHT FOR SURE I'D TURNED THE HEAT UP...
CLIK
CAMOUFLAGE IS "THERMOSTAT TAMPERERS'" SECRET WEAPON...
CLIK
DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS

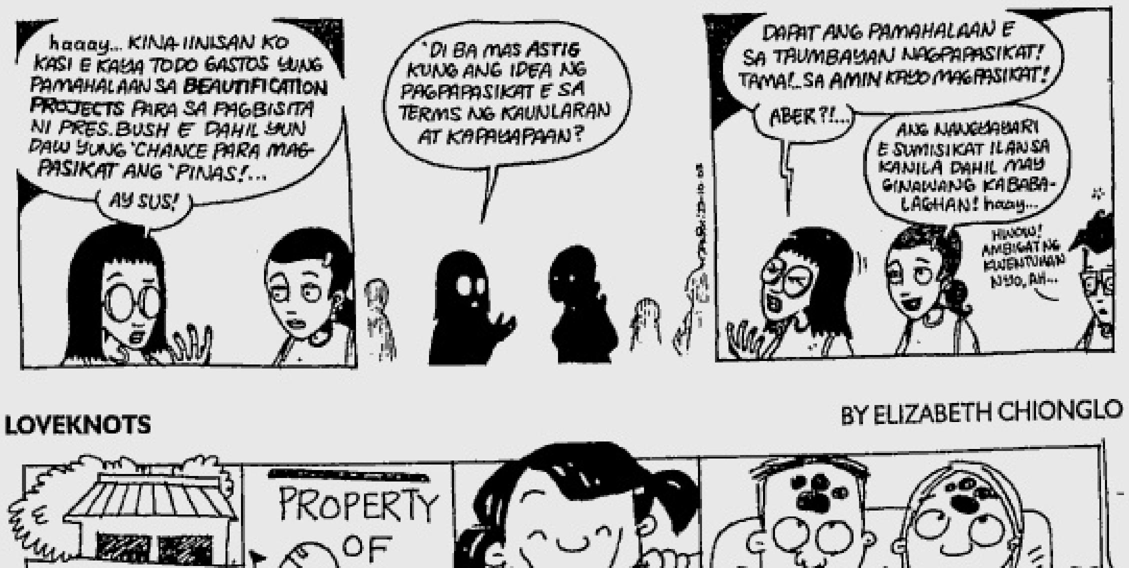
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


LARO TAYO SA'MIN MAMAYA, BUNSOY!
DI AKO PWEDE E..
..PINAPALINIS NG INAY KO YUNG BAKURAN NAMIN...
..BAKA PAGALITAN PA'KO PAG DI KO GINAWA!.
HINDI YAN!!
..DI LINISIN MO YUNG BAKURAN NAMIN!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J. Tejido 10-03

Visit the Mikrokosmos Art Exhibit at Papemelroti Cafe, 91 Roces Ave., QC - Extended until End of Oct!

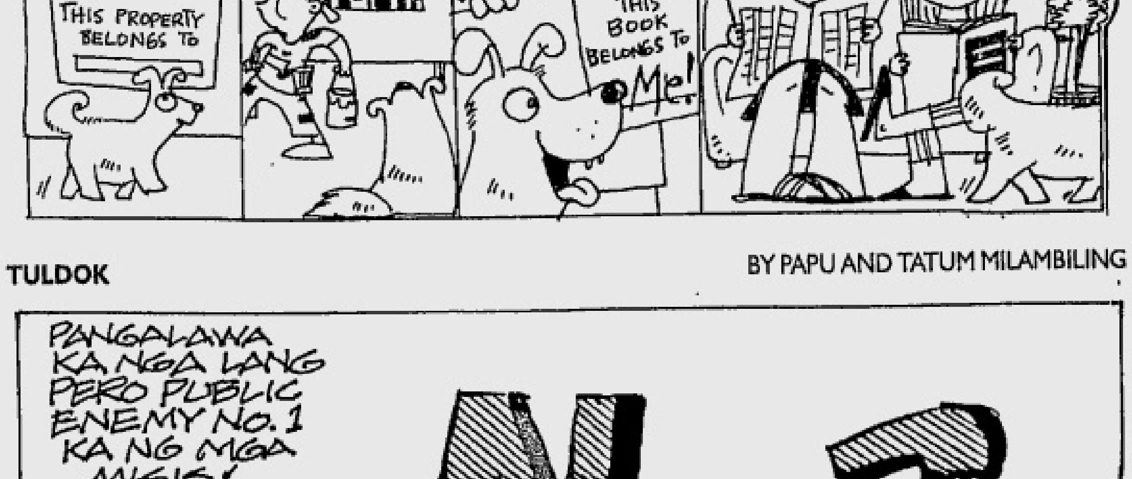
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


haaay... KINA-IINISAN KO KASI E KAYA TODO GASTOS YUNG PAMAHALAAN SA BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS PARA SA PAGBISITA NI PRES. BUSH E DAHIL YUN DAW YUNG 'CHANCE PARA MAG-PASIKAT ANG 'PINAS!...
AY SUS!
'DI BA MAS ASTIG KUNG ANG IDEA NG PAGPAPASIKAT E SA TERMS NG KAUNLARAN AT KAPAYAPAAN?
DAPAT ANG PAMAHALAAN E SA TAUMBAYAN NAGPAPASIKAT! TAMA!..SA AMIN KAYO MAGPASIKAT!
ABER?!..
ANG NANGYAYARI E SUMISIKAT ILAN SA KANILA DAHIL MAY GINAWANG KABABALAGHAN! haay...
HWOW! AMBIGAT NG KWENTUHAN NYO, AH...

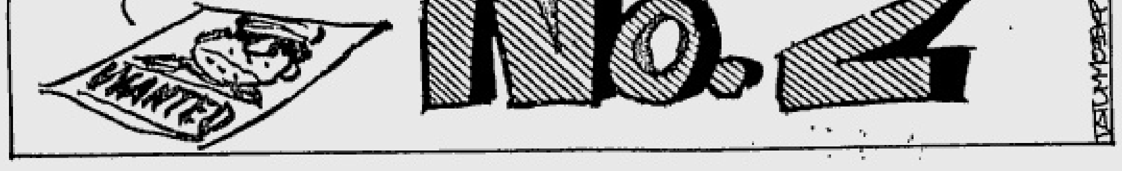
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


THIS PROPERTY BELONGS TO
PROPERTY OF
THIS BOOK BELONGS TO Me!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PANGALAWA KA NGA LANG PERO PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1 KA NG MGA MISIS!
WANTED
No. 2
TATUMDBER

cmadamba@inquirer.com.ph
897-8808 local 209 and 238

Tours, Leisure & Chow

Munich trip at stake for Oktoberfest 2003

OVERFLOWING beer, sumptuous German delicacies, authentic oompapa music and a chance to visit Munich—the Oktoberfest birthplace—are up for grabs on Oct. 24 and 25 as Mandarin Oriental, Manila stages the country's most authentic Oktoberfest celebration at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio Global City from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

An extensive buffet spread of sumptuous German delicacies such as Schweinshaxn mit Rotkohl (roast pork knuckle with red cabbage), Wuerste mit Sauerkraut (Assorted grilled sausages with sauerkraut and assorted mustard), Sauerbraten (beef braised in sweet and sour sauce), Metzgereien (assorted cold cuts with pickles and mustard), Gulaschsuppe (Goulash soup), Schinken im Teig (baked ham on sour dough bread), and Apfelstrudel (Apple Strudel), will be complemented by unlimited mugs of beer. At the entrance is a booth selling chocolate heart cookies, T-shirts and lederhosen-garbed teddy bears.

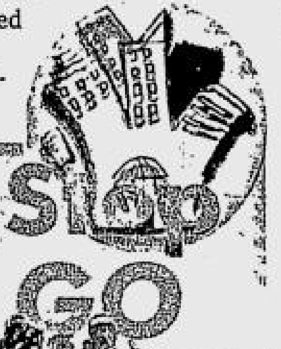
Hosted by TV personality RJ Ledesma, Oktoberfest 2003 is guaranteed to bring loads of excitement to hundreds of guests from local and expatriate communities. Expect fun contests in beer-drinking and yodeling, sure fire hits among Oktoberfest regulars for the past two years.

The two-night celebration will be highlighted by live band music from the 11-piece Bavarian Sound Express, who are dressed in authentic lederhosen costumes.

Tickets cost P1,550, inclusive of a complimentary mug, unlimited food and beer, and the chance to win the free trip to Munich. Discount rates apply for a minimum purchase of 24 tickets. For reservations and enquiries, call 750-8888 local 2401, or visit the Oktoberfest ticket booth at Mandarin Oriental's lobby.

Capturing the essence of the world's biggest outdoor festival that finds its roots in Bavaria, Germany, Mandarin Oriental's Oktoberfest 2003 is held with the support of Siemens, Lufthansa, Philippine Star, San Miguel, NBC and Audi. The German Embassy and the German Club also collaborate with Mandarin Oriental in staging the hotel's annual Oktoberfest.

Where to Stop Where to GO



A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

New World Renaissance Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.marriott.com

Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 813-8888/ Fax 813-5499
www.shangri-la.com

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Barcelo Hotels and Resorts
4/F Adamson Centre, 121 LP Leviste St.
Salcedo Village, Makati
Tel. (02) 867-1159/ fax (02) 867-1185
www.barcelo-asia.com

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

ASTORIA PLAZA
15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District,
Pasig City 1600
Tel 687-1111 Fax 910-0370
Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700/fax (074) 446-0704

Hotel Supreme
113 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-2011 to 18/ Fax. (074) 442-2855

Skyrise Hotel
18 Dominican Road, Baguio City
Tel (074) 445-6834 to 36 /fax (074) 443-3897

The Peninsula Manila Hotel
Cor. Ayala Ave. & Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 810-3456/ Fax 815-4825

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com.ph

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (6332) 340-4888/fax (6332) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/fax (082) 225-1888

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza
Naguilian cor. Asin Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 447-8888 to 93/ (074) 447-8895 to 98
Fax. (074) 447-0494

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda
Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9965 to 72/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704

Taal Vista Hotel
Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (046) 413-1000/fax. (046) 413-1225

For Feedback and inquiries, call
899-4426 or 897-8808 loc 209

Take a break at Barcelo Eagle Point Resort

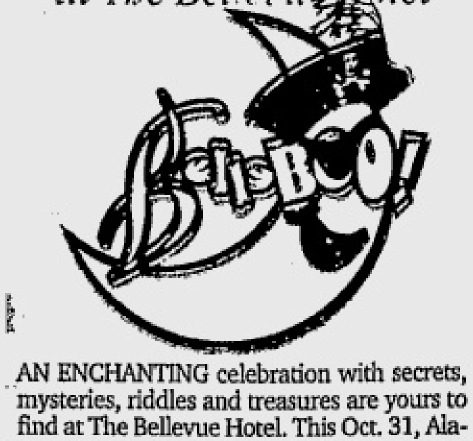
BARCELO Eagle Point Resort gives you more reasons to stay and recharge in a natural and soothing environment within easy reach of the bustling metropolis through the resort's special overnight package.

Priced at only P2,750++ per person (twin sharing basis) and P2,100++ per person (triple sharing basis) for an overnight stay in an air-conditioned one-bedroom cottage. The package includes complimentary entrance and parking fees, round-trip shuttle service from the parking area to the resort, welcome drinks upon arrival, three sumptuous meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner), and complimentary use of common facilities like the fresh and saltwater swimming pools, children's playground and other recreational facilities. Guests' activities include hiking to the walk-through aviary, tour of the Butterfly Park, scheduled snorkeling tour for 1 hour (mask and snorkels for rent) and scheduled fish feeding at the reef pool, wherein guests get to experience feeding baby sharks and other marine species.

Barcelo Eagle Point Resort lies along the tip of the Calumpang Peninsula in the southern mouth of Balayan Bay in Mabini, Batangas. It can be reached approximately two and half hours by land from Manila. With the resort's close proximity to Anilao's favorite dive sites and having the best facilities for diving and water sports, it has become a treasured destination for novice and experienced divers. The resort's guestrooms have seaside views nestled amidst lush vegetation and designed to provide comfort and a homey feel. Adding to its attractions, the resort has a private and tranquil island called Sepoc Island—which can be accessed exclusively by resort guests—that provides another choice location for swimming and snorkeling.

For inquiries on the overnight package, you may call the Manila sales office at 813-3553 or 867-1159, or log on to www.barcelo-asia.com.

Belle-Boo: Fun Halloween at The Bellevue Hotel



AN ENCHANTING celebration with secrets, mysteries, riddles and treasures are yours to find at The Bellevue Hotel. This Oct. 31, Alabang's premier family destination hosts a get-together of family and friends with fun-filled games, activities and giveaways through a pirate treasure hunt fair.

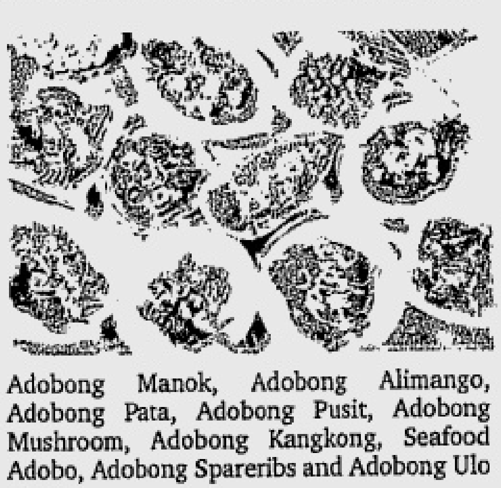
Kids and adults alike are all invited. Just follow the colorful Bellevue Road and win prizes at the end of your trip! A reasonably-priced entrance fee of P250 entitles one to the adventure.

Plus, mommies and daddies availing themselves of the special Halloween package will get treasure hunt passes for free! The Halloween package is available for local residents from Oct. 30 to Nov. 3 at P3,000++ for the 1st night and P2,000++ for each succeeding night, inclusive of buffet breakfast for two and free treasure hunt passes to Belle-Boo! for a family of four. Diners who avail themselves of the Belle-Boo! lunch or dinner will be entitled to one treasure hunt pass for free.

Family fun never ends at the Bellevue Hotel, now the social and business hub south of Metro Manila. Aside from 222 deluxe and suite rooms, modern communications and banquet facilities, the latest gym equipment and spa treatments that moms and dads enjoy, the little ones love the pool and the cool kiddie activities on Sundays. Kids rule at the Bellevue!

For inquiries, call 771-8181.

All about Adobo at Dusit Hotel Nikko's The Cafe



IF THERE'S one dish always present not only on Filipino dining tables but even in picnics, outings and simple get-togethers, that would be the much loved *adobo*, cooked with spices that naturally preserve the dish even at room temperature and without refrigeration.

Adobo has various styles, ingredients and even colors. There is the brown to dark brown dish influenced by the Chinese and their soy sauce. This is the quickest, most popular style of adobo. Yellow adobo, flavored with achuete seeds, developed from Batangas. Reddish-brown adobo uses paprika while white adobo is immersed in coconut cream. There is also the mustard-colored variant usually cooked with turmeric and grated coconut.

Dusit Hotel Nikko's The Café is eager to fill your tummies with tasty adobo fare. Selections of the popular dish will be featured at the buffet for lunch and dinner daily from Oct. 15 to 31. Savor Adobong Baboy, Adobong Manok, Adobong Alimango, Adobong Pata, Adobong Pusit, Adobong Mushroom, Adobong Kangkong, Seafood Adobo, Adobong Spareribs and Adobong Ulo ng Isda.

Whet your appetites with irresistible Filipino cuisine at Dusit Hotel Nikko's All about Adobo. For queries and reservations, call 867-3333 ext. 3346.

Astoria Plaza's A Treat of Ur Suite room promo

TAKE advantage of the long holiday weekends and check in at Astoria Plaza for a relaxing and refreshing treat. Avail yourself of Astoria Plaza's A Treat 4 Ur Suite room promo for only P3,550 per night and experience superb room accommodations in a 2-bedroom suite with complimentary breakfast for four. Package includes complimentary fruit basket, bottled mineral water replenished daily and free use of the gym and the pool.

Take a step further and avail yourself of the 2+1 treat. Check-in at the hotel's luxurious 2-bedroom suite for two straight nights for only P4,950 per night and get the third night free. Included in the 2+1 room promo are daily breakfast buffet for 4 persons, complimentary fruit basket, bottled mineral water replenished daily, free deep facial treatment and beauty kit, and free use of the gym and the pool. The facial treatment and beauty kits are courtesy of Klinika's Dr. Mary Jane Valdecañas.

Astoria Plaza's Treat 4 Ur Suite Room Promo also entitles you to 25-percent discount at the Café Astoria's Weekend lunch buffet (Saturdays and Sundays) and 10-percent discount at Stresscape Spa. Above rates are subject to service charge and applicable government tax. This promo is valid until Nov. 30.

For inquiries and reservations, visit or call (02) 687-1111.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Sidekick powers, pinch-in jobs and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: Tell us about your parents, your family, where you grew up…

Guest: Well, we came from Luzon, but we moved when I was a baby, because my dad got a job in Cebu, so was my mother.

(Ah, please repeat?)

***

Host: We feature sports and sportsmen in our next segment. Partner, will you do the honors in introducing them?

Co-host: Gladly! Friends, our next guests are players—in particular, badmintoners!

(*Ay*, "badmintoners"!)

***

Host: As a veteran nutritionist, can you give us tips on healthy, nutritional eating?

Guest: *Una sa lahat, ang* nutritional value *ng ating kinakain ang dapat nating kainin*!

(*Ano raw*?)

***

Host: What is your dream for yourself when you graduate from college?

Guest: I want to be a good newscaster—*kaya* idol *ko si* Love Añover!

(No comment!)

***

Host: I hear you're fond of fashion? Why?

Guest: *Gusto ko yung magagandang damit para ma*-exposure *ang damit ko*!

(*Pakiulit nga*?)

***

Host: Invite them to visit your beautiful province.

Guest: That's right, please visit our beautiful province. It's easy to get there now because the road is well-paid!

(It's always an advantage to have a well-paid road!)

***

Host: I hear you have a new album? Why don't you ask our viewers to buy a copy?

Guest: Thank you for the opportunity. To our viewers, please support my new album—it's now out of the market!

(That bad, huh?)

***

Host: How did you start working on TV?

Guest: It was nothing planned, at first. It started as a regular pinch-in job *lang*, before I became a regular.

(*Ay*, "pinch-in" job!)

***

Host: Tell us about your friend. What is the most fascinating thing about her?

Guest: Well, she can look into the future.

Host: She can predict the future? Wow!

Guest: That's right—she has sidekick powers!

(*E 'di puwede pala siyang* sidekick *ni* Robin Padilla *sa susunod niyang* action film!)

Feedback

FROM **Elise Carreon** of Makati City: "TV dramas about stars' true-to-life conflicts have become popular with Filipino viewers. After watching some of them, however, I detect some problems that could lead to their becoming predictable.

"There are recurring themes and plot lines, especially since many stars come from poor families. So, quite often, we get stories about illnesses, lack of money, having to work while still a child, parental cruelty, and so on.

"These is also the tendency to paint too glossy a picture of stars' lives once they become popular. This imparts the wrong values and gives too much importance to material wealth.

"The stories are also too emotional, with tearful scenes being extended, resulting in bad acting on the part of the actors.

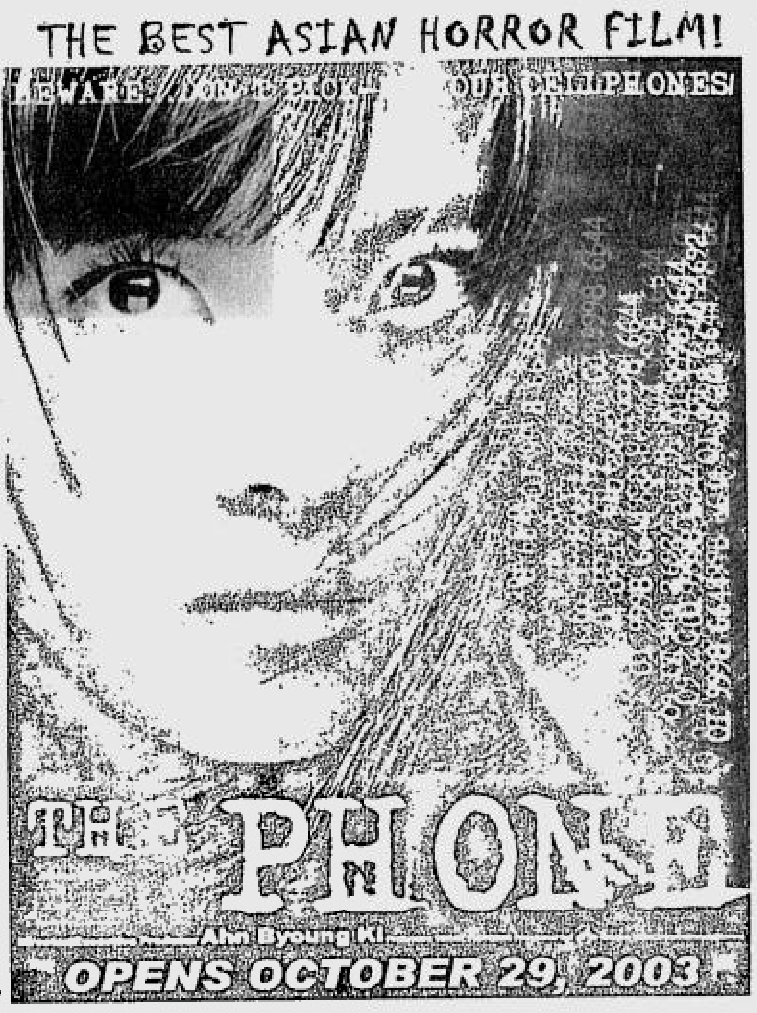
"I hope that the time will come when TV dramas can feature the lives of non-stars, like they used to before. This will mean greater variety, which is what is lacking in dramas on TV these days."

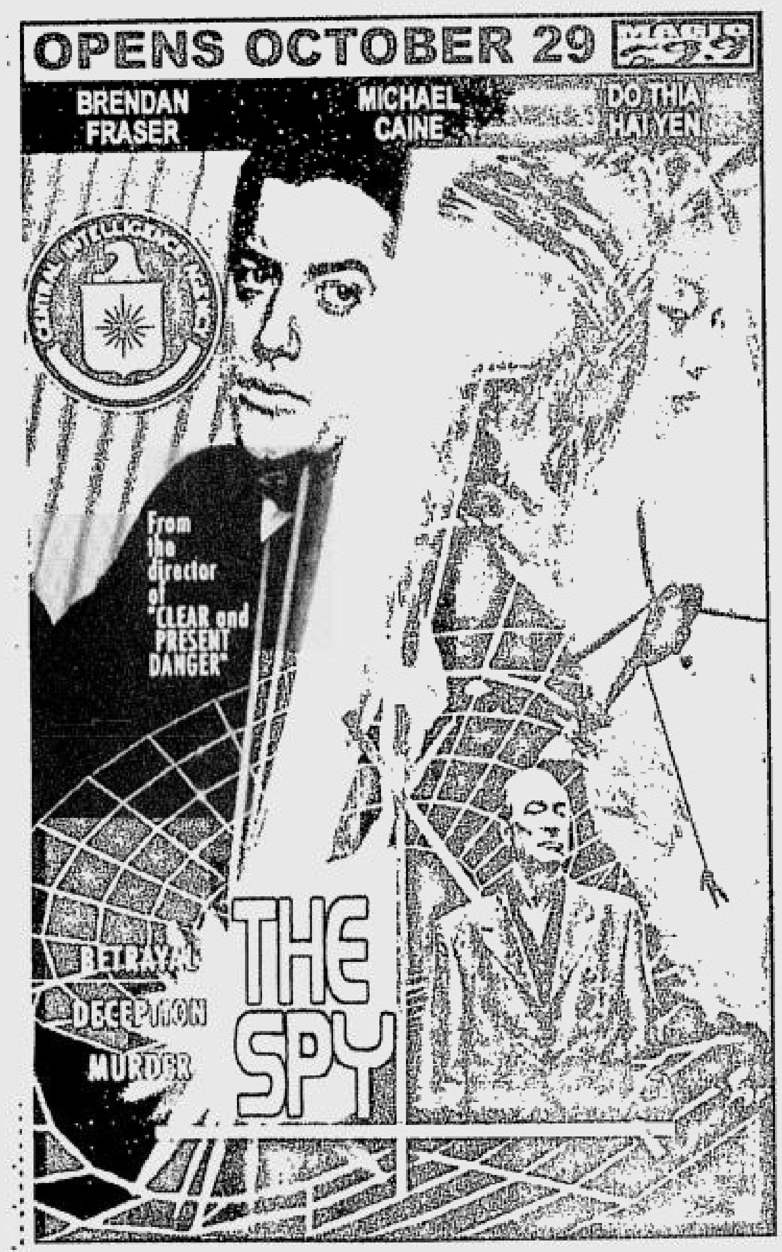
'May Puso ang Batas'

THE LAST time we talked to **Boots Anson-Roa**, she said she was both executive-producing and acting in a new TV legal series. Last Oct. 5, the show, "May Puso ang Batas," premiered on RPN-9.

The series fields lead players like Boots, **Gary Estrada, Ricky Davao, Pinky de Leon, Nanding Josef, Chinggay Alonzo** and **Angel Jacob**. And **Sen. John Osmeña** plays the owner of the Juarez-Osorio Law Office in the story.

The initial episode featured **Elizabeth Oropesa** and **Jennifer Sevilla**. "May Puso ang Batas" is directed by **Ruel S. Bayani**.





NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
FROM THE PAST TO THE PRESENT, THE MUMMY HAS RISEN AGAIN.
SOPHIE MARCEAU
BELPHEGOR
CURSE OF THE MUMMY

Jessica hands-on mom to her 3rd and David's 1st

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

IT ISN'T easy getting back into the groove after losing my mom, but I know that she wants me not just to survive but to prevail.

So I joined **David Bunevacz** and **Jessica Rodriguez** as they celebrated life itself during the christening of their adorable 4-month-old daughter **Breanna Zofia** at the St. James Church in Ayala Alabang. I was one of the godparents along with **Patricia Javier, Jacob Fernandez, Joanne Quintas, Dyan Castillejo, Francis Lumen** and **Vincent del Rosario**, to name a few. Reception was held at the sprawling mansion of the proud parents in Pacific Village, Alabang. It was also their housewarming and wedding anniversary.

David beamed, "You should see my baby pics. I look like Breanna's carbon copy but her male version."

Not to be outdone, the happy mama countered, "But we looked alike when we were babies, so that means Breanna got her looks from the two of us. Besides, I'll make sure she grows up to be as *kikay* as I used to be!"

It's no secret that Jessica had such a colorful past and has two love children from two previous relationships. Even if Breanna is already her third child (and David's first), she feels like it's her first time all over again.

"Now I'm really hands-on," she said. "Breanna sleeps with David and me. We don't want to leave her with her *yaya* all the time. I was the breadwinner before so even if I wanted to look after my two kids, I didn't have much of a choice but to be out working for them. Now David takes care of everything so I can really focus on being a mom."

If David had his way, he would rather not let Breanna join show biz when she grows up. "I want her to study abroad so she will learn how to be independent. The sad thing about most kids here is that they tend to cling to the maids and feel helpless without them. I don't want Breanna to grow up to be a spoiled brat."

Pampered is the word for the Bunevacz li'l princess. Jessica can no longer have another baby, so you can just imagine how much David treasures their Breanna, his firstborn and her last baby.

'FYI'

HE IS 24. She is 22. But the difference stops with the figures. The guy is **Raymond Pagdanganan** and the girl is **Vanessa Untalan**.

On Oct. 25 and every Saturday thereafter, Raymond and Vanessa are hosting "FYI," a magazine cum public affairs show on IBC Channel 13.

Aside from Raymond's good looks, his greatest asset is his political pedigree. The nice thing is he does not flaunt it, which is rare among scions of political families.

Vanessa is a combination of beauty, charisma, talent and substance. She was Miss Pangasinan 2002.

THE BUNEVACZS with Breanna

"FYI" will have features and stories which bring out the best in Filipino values, traditional culture, socio-civic consciousness and pop culture behavior.

Guess who

GUESS who this son of a famous comedian/politico is. His wife can hardly stand his philandering ways, so if he does not get his act together the wife will spill the beans about him and his mistress, a top commercial model.

Bits and pieces

DOMINI Primero and **Joanne Quintas** are expecting their third baby. They are both hoping for a boy. When the time comes, Domini probably can relinquish his throne as "Party

TITLE/ A27

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
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CINEMA-6	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
CINEMA-7	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-8	KIKAY (RI)
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CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Victor Neri to play lead…

From page A28

he tells me to do something, I do it without question, hesitation, argument or even compromise."

Victor believes his performance in "Bugbog Sarado" convinced Lamangan to give him a starring role in "Filipinas."

"I consider myself lucky because most of my film roles have been tailor-made for me," says Victor, whose career is being managed by Veana Fores.

Victor has been in the business for 11 years, long enough to know how to deal with the intrigues that go with the job. Not even questions about his sexuality bother him, he says.

"I guess no one is ever prepared for the intrigues," Victor allows. "It's just learning how to take them. I'm sure of who I am. Intrigues will always be part of show biz. People will always pry into your personal life. It's up to you if you let them. You should know where to draw the line."

15-year-old newcomer

He says his life has been an open book and he doesn't hide anything from the public, not even his love child, Vito, 3, whose mother is not from show biz.

"The kid is a gift from God, so why would I be ashamed of him," Victor says.

Victor entered show biz when he was only 15, as a member of ABS-CBN's Star Circle Batch 1 and a mainstay of the afternoon youth program, "Ang TV." Two years later, he made his first movie, "Asero."

He played an anti-hero in "Utol," where he played the younger brother of Cesar Montano. "Utol" earned Victor a best supporting actor nomination from the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP).

He was the paraplegic husband of Alma Moreno in Mel Chionglo's "Kapalit," and another bad boy in Willy Milan's "Masamang Ugat," with Eddie Garcia and Ace Vergel.

He has worked with the likes of Raymart Santiago in "Iskalawag," Jestoni Alarcon in "Amanos," Eddie Garcia again in "Tigasin," and Rudy Fernandez in "Birador."

God is good

His solo action starrers include "Suspek" and "Ex-Con."

"I don't want to be typecast," Victor maintains. "I've done mostly action movies because those were the offers that came my way. But I'm an actor for hire. Whatever you give me, I'll adjust to it. An actor has to be ready to adjust to any role."

Victor's movie idols are Ed Harris and our own esteemed actor-director Eddie Garcia. "He's (still) here because he's good," he says of Eddie. "He's simply amazing. I'd like to achieve even half of what he has done."

Victor says he wants to play Lapu-Lapu, "a real Filipino hero," in a movie.

The year 2003 has been a fruitful one for him, with good roles, he says.

"Every year has been a good year for me since I started in show biz," Victor says. "God is good. I have no regrets being in this business. I have the best job in the world. I will not trade it for any position in any company. I love everything about show biz."

Araneta Center

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
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SHOW TIME

Show biz mag marks 2nd year with a bash

S MAGAZINE celebrates its second anniversary with a star-studded party on Oct. 28 at Virgin Café in Quezon City.

The entertainment and lifestyle magazine will also recognize the people and companies who contribute to its growth and success.

The monthly full-color, glossy magazine is from Global Publishing and Entertainment Corp., with entertainment writer and PR practitioner Aster A. Amoyo as managing director and publisher. It is also circulated in Japan, Hong Kong, the United States, United Kingdom, Middle East, Taiwan, Italy and other countries.

The party will be hosted by Regine Tolentino, TJ Manotoc, Giselle Sanchez and Butch Francisco, and will feature performances by Ogie Alcasid, Diana Zubiri, Katya Santos, Jen Rosendahl, Sexbomb Dancers and Singers, Parokya ni Edgar, Divo, True Faith, Kyla, Renz Verano, Gladys and the Boxers with K, Boyfriends, Marissa Sanchez, Arnell Ignacio, Luke Mejares, Anna Fegi, Roselle Nava, RJ Rosales, Malik, Arnee Hidalgo, Karylle, Jed Maddela, Josh Santana, Von Arroyo, 9th Avenue Band, Masculados, Dance Electric and more. It will also include a fashion show of the latest by designer Gener Gozum.

It is presented by Global Publishing in cooperation with Virgin Café, PLDT Global Corp., IPS Inc., Advent Eastern Link Inc., Megacall Inc., Pilipinas International Marketing Services Inc., Smart Buddy, Restolax, Bizaare Shirts, Leonardo, Porsche Jeans, PH-Care, BCNY Enat Vitamin E, Kissa, Bevida Mineral Water, Vanilla Coke, Novelino Italia, The Body Shop, L. Carlos Florist, Artic Vodka and 90.7 Love Radio.

Jessica hands-on mom...

From page A26

King" to their son.

***

Catch RiverMaya at Starmall on Oct. 26, at SM City on Oct. 29, and SM Bicutan on Oct 30.

***

When **Joyce Jimenez** was our guest co-host on "Celebrity DAT Com," she and **TJ Manotoc** were so at home with each other even when the cameras had stopped grinding, which prompted me to tease them, "Maybe I should exit frame for now? I feel like the third wheel." But they both made my job easier. It was quite tough facing the cameras again after my mom's demise. But as my mom taught me time and again, "When it's show time, show them that you are made of stronger stuff than your detractors picture you to be." Yes, Ma. I'm listening. And I know you'll keep watching.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

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The testosterone-packed movie launches The Rock as an international Action Superstar a la Arnold Schwarzenegger. Schwarzenegger shows his support for The Rock as the politics- bound action hero appears briefly in the slam-bang action comedy.

The Rock (or Dwayne Johnson) is Beck, a bounty hunter assigned to retrieve a wise-cracking double dealer played by Seann William Scott (Stifler in the American Pie movies), who is on a treasure hunt deep in the Brazilian jungle.

The Rundown features The Rock in a series of jaw-dropping fight scenes, including an eye-popping rumble in the jungle with our very own Ernie Reyes Jr., Fil-Am martial arts champion

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NOKIA INQUIRER

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

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3 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 HEAD OF THE STATE 12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30 10:30	REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 FREAKY FRIDAY 1:25, 3:20, 5:15, 7:10, 9:05, 11:00	3 FREAKY FRIDAY
4 UTANG NG AMA	4 MATCHSTICK MEN		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 1:30 3:30 5:30, 7:30 9:30 11:30	4 BELPHEGOR
	5 UNDERWORLD		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER 1:25 3:20 5:15 7:10 9:05 11:00	5 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
	6 THE RUNDOWN			
	7 FREAKY FRIDAY			

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6 GOLD (SDDS)	THE RUNDOWN
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	AMERICAN PCYCHO
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

NERI. "God is good."

Victor Neri to play lead in US film

By Leah C. Salterio
Contributor

IN THE 1999 American film, "Brokedown Palace," directed by Jonathan Kaplan, Victor Neri played a fleeting role as a Thai soldier who framed up the character played by Kate Beckinsale in a drug dealing case.

Next year, Neri will be in another foreign movie, "Root Cutter." This time he will play the lead, INQUIRER Entertainment learned.

"Root Cutter" will be shot starting January 2004 on Batan Island off the coast of Batanes and near Taiwan, with American-Italian director Joseph Nobile at the helm.

The movie will feature an all-Filipino cast, with Chin-Chin Gutierrez playing Victor's wife.

"I was told to meet with director Nobile, who also wrote the screenplay," Victor recalls. "He gave me one look and he said, 'You're hired.' He said it was like he wrote the role for me. But before we met, he had already been told about my credentials."

Nobile previously directed another US movie, "Closer to Home," whose cast included Filipino actors Joonee Gamboa and the late Ray Ventura. It is about a marine who goes back home to New York City and meets an Asian mail-order bride.

Victor says he is taking a break in December to prepare for his role in "Root Cutter." He has just finished work on the GMA 7 soap, "Habang Kapiling Ka," where he starred for one year, and on Viva's "Bugbog Sarado," where he worked for the first time in a movie with director Joel Lamangan.

Victor is also in the cast of another Joel Lamangan film, "Filipinas," Viva's official entry in the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) in December. "Filipinas" also features Richard Gomez, Maricel Soriano, Armida Siguion-Reyna and Aiko Melendez.

Tailor-made roles

Victor considers Lamangan "one of the two directors I trust, the other being Toto Natividad." The latter directed "Notoryus," the movie that launched Victor as an action star.

"I've worked with Direk Joel on TV before, in the mini-series 'Liwanag ng Hatinggabi,'" Victor says. "If

VICTOR/ A26

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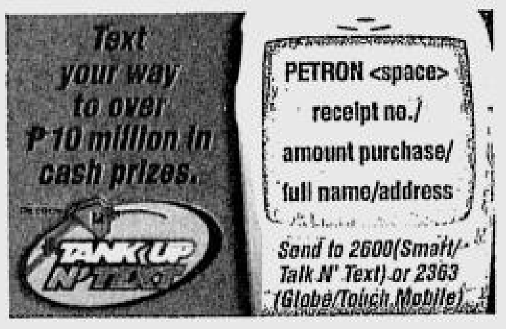

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Political woes drag peso down to 55.24-$1

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO slid back to 55-$1 level yesterday closing at a month-low of 55.245 due to political uncertainties.

The peso opened at the intra-day high of 54.88 after Tuesday's close of 54.85 before closing near the intra-day low of 55.25 to the dollar.

"There were some short covering due to political uncertainties," a currency trader said. "There were also some corporate requirements."

Reports quoting businessmen as saying that the local electronics industry was under severe pressure were also blamed for the peso's weakening. The reports said the electronics sector was suffering from lack of government support and tough competition from China.

Traders said the warning on the electronics sector compounded recent worries over the country's economic performance and political stability.

Some $220.7 worth of transactions were done at the Philippine Dealing System, doubling the previous day's value turnover.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Rafael Buenaventura, however, said the BSP was not in the market yesterday.

He explained that the peso's weakening yesterday was but an aberration caused by the banks' covering of short positions which were left out when the peso sharply gained ground against the US dollar in recent weeks. He said the peso was expected to recover soon.

The BSP chief also said the Monetary Board, the BSP's policy-making body, would likely leave interest rates unchanged during its policy meeting today despite the peso depreciation.

The BSP's borrowing rate is currently pegged at 6.75 percent and its lending rate at 9 percent.

When the peso is declining, the BSP can opt to raise interest rates to siphon off excess liquidity which may be used to speculate against the local currency.

Buenaventura had also said that the 91-day Treasury bill rate was not likely to increase to more than 6 percent this year in view of the benign inflation rate.

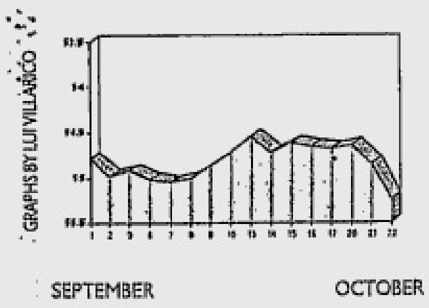
During the T-bill auction held by the Bureau of Treasury last week, the 91-day rate, which is used by banks as the benchmark for their lending rates, averaged at 5.629 percent.

"Interest rates will stay low. At the most it (91-day T-bill) will hit 6 percent," Buenaventura said, noting that it was the BSP's interest to maintain a low-interest rate regime.

The BSP chief also said that not even pressures arising from preparations for the 2004 presidential elections would jack up T-bill rates next year. "It won't go over our (current) policy lending rates, on the short term at least," he said. *With a report from Reuters*

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 55.245 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 22, 2003

Y 109.54 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 22, 2003

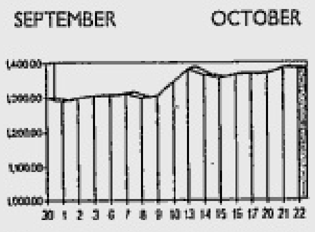
GOLD: $379.50-380.00

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 22, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks dip, wait on actor's poll bid

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS edged lower on Wednesday as traders took profits on key issues but steered clear of active trading, awaiting an announcement on whether a popular local movie star would run for president next year.

High-level opposition officials are courting Fernando Poe Jr., widely known as FPJ, to run under a united opposition banner, with some senators predicting he would soon announce his intention to stand in next May's polls.

"They (market players) are waiting for the announcement of FPJ," said Joseph Roxas, president of Eagle Equities.

Poe, who has no background in economics or politics, is seen as a formidable opponent for President Macapagal-Arroyo, although some believe he is tainted by his close friendship with former President Joseph Estrada, currently being detained on charges of economic plunder.

"Of course, most businessmen do not like him, though if he wanted to run on his own it would not be such a problem...the problem is he is being pushed by Erap," said Roxas, calling Estrada by his popular nickname.

Roxas said the market's short-term direction would be determined by the Poe announcement.

The main index closed down 3.35 points to 1,382.74.

Turnover rose to P1.04 billion from Tuesday's P755.1 million but around half the trades were a cross transaction of shares in conglomerate Ayala Corp , Roxas said.

After sharp gains in recent days, foreign investor favorites Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co and conglomerate Ayala Corp succumbed to profit-taking, pulling the broad market marginally lower. *Reuters*

INSURANCE CONCERNS

$1B in US investments put on hold

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ROUGHLY $1 billion in American investments in Philippine bonds, transport and utility projects have been put on hold due to hitches in obtaining investment insurance cover from the Overseas Private Investment Corp. (OPIC).

In a briefing at Malacañang, Philippine Ambassador to the US Albert del Rosario said the Philippine government would meet anew with OPIC officials to iron out the country's request for insurance cover on major projects and bond floats.

The deals that have been delayed by the lack of an investment insurance were the multi-million dollar bond float of the National Power Corp., the IOU offering of the Pag-Ibig Fund, the bond float of Manila Light Railways and Transit Corp., the bond issuance of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, and the wafer fabrication project of Sunpower.

Del Rosario said the OPIC delay was one of the issues raised during the state visit of US President George W. Bush on Oct. 18 mainly because of its critical role in encouraging more US investments to the Philippines.

Although the reopening of the OPIC guarantee facility worth $1 billion is now certain, the process is seen to take sometime before the insurance cover can be actually used.

Philippine Export-Import Bank president Joel Valdez said that the delays were mostly "bureaucratic" in nature as all the deals that were being lined up for OPIC coverage had to undergo due diligence. While it was unlikely that the OPIC would approve insurance coverage on these deals this year, Valdez said that the application for loans would likely be processed next year.

AMBASSADOR Albert del Rosario.

The OPIC is expected to send a representative to Manila later this month to conduct due diligence on some of the prospective borrowers.

The state-run OPIC provides help to American investments overseas in managing their risks in putting their money in new and emerging markets.

The country does not provide guarantee against losses due to inconvertibility of currency or damage caused by war and American investors turn to OPIC cover these risks.

An alternative is the Multilateral Investment Guaranty Agency (MIGA), which provides coverage against non-commercial risks such as currency inconvertibility and transfers restrictions, expropriation, war and civil disturbances, and contract repudiation by host country governments. American investors and Philippine issuers prefer an insurance cover from the OPIC than a guarantee from multilateral agencies such as the Asian Development Bank.

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Count your dressings

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

LET us say that "Fernando Poe Jr." is his real name. Let us say that the man known as "the King" was actually born here and not in Hawaii.

For that's the rumor which is being circulated by some tacticians of this cute administration of Gloriaetta.

The question is, anyway, do you think FP "the King" J will run for President in 2004, if only to please his friend, the man named Band…Wrist Band.

As the former President loves to say, FP "the King" J is the only one who can get loads and tons and oodles of votes, and so it is impossible to cheat him?

Think what you want, but to me, FP "the King" J will run for only one reason, and it's because Gloriaetta broke her promise not to run in 2004.

He will run if only for the satisfaction of beating Gloriaetta. You know—motive of revenge! Just like in the movies!

* * *

IN the first place, given the election modernization program of the Comelec, is it still possible to cheat in the national elections in 2004?

Well, it may be possible, but according to one contractor of the Comelec, the Mega Pacific Consortium, it will be quite difficult.

Mega Pacific won the Comelec bidding for the P1.3-billion second phase of the P3-billion modernization program. It is setting up the automated counting system.

Based on the Comelec's bidding specification, the system must be able to come out with the election results nationwide within 24 hours.

That should take away the luxury of time in the cheating process. To cheat in the vote counting next year, in other words, you will have to be faster than lightning.

To doctor the election results, for instance, the famous *dagdag-bawas* relies on the long and arduous manual counting, which takes several months. Right, Ronnie?

* * *

ANYWAY, Mega Pacific is also confident that its system will not only solve the *dagdag-bawas* problem, it will also stop the use of other vote counting dressings. They include the use of fake ballots and the recycling of genuine ballots. What am I saying here—even fake ballots are recycled, forgodsakes!

Mega Pacific swears it uses ballot paper with secret security features, which the company will not reveal to me, even if I don't intend to use them to make myself rich.

What I am trying to say is, the counting machines can detect fake and recycled ballots precisely because of the special security paper.

Thus, even if in the remote chance that the famous election fraud syndicate of Mr. "R" finds a way to produce the same kind of paper, it will have to spend a fortune.

With the system, in other words, the cost of cheating will be much more than a couple of thousand pesos which they used to spend to adjust some handwritten numbers.

* * *

BUT what about if some techies tinker with the insides of the counting machines, thereby programming them to do a little hi-tech cheating, hidden from any human eye at that?

Mega Pacific says that, as another security feature, only "authorized" staff of the Comelec can operate the machines, and there is only one personnel for each machine.

In the past, almost everybody could mess with the ballots. They passed through different hands, like those of public school teachers and…well, goons.

In the Mega Pacific system, moreover, the counting machines have no keyboards. The software is already there inside almost permanently. It is most difficult to change.

The data in the machines were also encrypted using "Verisign" technology, which is a world-renowned security coding system.

It uses a complicated code to open up the software which was installed in the counting machine. As added security, the CD of the code is kept in a bank vault.

* * *

NOW bad words have been said about Mega Pacific. For instance, it is said that the company has no track record in automated counting systems. Of course, no!

Mega Pacific, as I said, is a consortium. Its members precisely got together for the first time just to come up with all different fields of expertise required by the Comelec.

The consortium has ePLDT (the IT subsidiary of PLDT), WeSolv (a subsidiary of Fujitsu), SK C&C of South Korea, and the US firm Election.com.

The lead company is Mega Pacific Solutions, which has P300 million in paid-up capital, whose owners have been contractors of the Comelec for more than 20 years.

For the counting machines, the consortium uses Korean technology, which counted some 50 million votes in that country's national elections in 2002.

Mega Pacific thinks its system can handle the elections here next year. The estimated number of voters here is only 40 million, give or take a few flying voters.

* * *

ABOUT one and a half years ago, the Star Group of Hong Kong cut the local Destiny Cable from popular cable TV channels like ESPN, HBO, Star Sports and Star Movies.

Destiny was supposed to go bankrupt. Without those cable TV staples, indeed, Destiny lost some 20,000 or so subscribers.

Recently, based on news releases of Destiny's competitor, the one called Sky Cable, the two cable TV companies were about to merge.

To me, the news had a chilling effect on consumers. Sky Cable wants to control the cable TV business in Metro Manila to make money. It will become a monopoly.

I just found out that the announcement by Sky Cable—that it already finalized the merger talks with Destiny—was a hoax. It has something to do with an $80-million loan.

Word goes around that, to enhance its viability, Sky Cable told the banks it would soon acquire Destiny. This should explain the merger press releases.

* * *

AS it turned, Sky Cable and Destiny did not even get to first base in their merger talks. Sky Cable simply gave a proposal, and Destiny just tried to consider it.

The latest I heard is that Destiny already turned down Sky Cable's proposal. For one, Destiny thinks that a monopoly is not good for the consumers. Bravo!

Word is that Destiny is tying up with a much smaller company than Sky Cable which called Global Cable, serving mainly the Chinese-Filipino community.

Global Cable may be small, but it has a tie-up with Eastern Media of Taiwan. Together, Destiny and Global Cable can compete against Sky Cable.

You see, with its 40 million or so subscribers in Taiwan, Eastern Media carries the same cable TV staples which the Star Group denied Destiny, and much more.

Minus the cable TV problem, Destiny can now go into cable Internet. It is the only cable company with the infrastructure for broadband Internet service.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, October 22, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	42.000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	46	44.5	45.5	615.600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	36	35.5	35.5	85.600
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.850.000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	29	27.5	27.5	392.900
Philippine National Bank	28	28	28	28	60.100
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	6.000
Security Bank Corp.	18.25	18.75	18	18.75	222.900
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30	29.5	29.5	25.400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.24	175.000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	1.000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1580	1590	1580	1590	70
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	134.000
Sun Life Financial Inc	1325	1340	1325	1340	6.890
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	28.5	29.5	28.5	29.5	262.400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.72	1.940.000
Globe Telecom Inc.	760	760	760	760	78.710
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.044	0 044	0.044	300.000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.047	0.047	0.045	.045	11.900.000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.85	0.86	0.85	.85	4.580.000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	770	770	750	750	144.430
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	.013	24.700.000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	14.75	14.25	14.25	254.000
Manila Electric Co. B	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.5	276.700
Petron Corp.	2.06	2.08	2.04	2.06	5.292.000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	55.000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.34	1.38	1.34	1.38	1.329.000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	3.15	2.95	3.15	6.568.000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.28	0.28	0 28	0.28	130.000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0 32	0.32	0 32	.32	10.000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2 8	2.9	2 8	2.9	43.000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	24.800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	721.100
Swift Food Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	.26	110.000
San Miguel Corp. A	56.5	56.5	56	56.5	11.100
San Miguel Corp. B	62	62.5	62	62.5	108.400
Universal Robina Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	1.603.000
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0 27	0.27	0.27	150.000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	2.000
Ayala Corp.	5	5	4.9	5	118.920.000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.4	3.45	3.4	3.4	545.000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	20.000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.25	0.35	0.25	.35	20.000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.6	.6	10.360.000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.15	990.000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10.000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	.28	10.000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.12	1.02	1.12	1.072.000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18.5	18.75	18.25	18.5	626.000
Ionics Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	2.000
Megaworld Corp.	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.08	6.398.000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	17.060.000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.39	.39	1.000.000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0 28	0 28	0 27	0.28	3.070.000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0 07	0 07	0 07	0.07	200.000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0 6	0.6	0.6	.6	730.000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	.33	200.000
Philippine Racing Club	3 5	3 5	3 5	3.5	95.000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	29	30.5	29	29.5	889.800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series L	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1.200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10 5	10.5	10.5	2.900
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	5.698.000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	.2	100.000
C & P Homes Inc	0.18	0.18	0.18	.18	40.000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.23	0.235	0.215	.215	7.520.000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	470.000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.22	1.16	1.22	14.903.000
Primex Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	100.000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	4.472.000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0 0038	0.0038	0.0038	0038	9.000.000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.235	0.24	0.23	.24	6.070.000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co.B	0.31	0.31	0 3	.31	3.040.000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.009	0 009	0.0085	.0085	24.000.000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.009	0 009	0.0085	.0085	21.000.000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	.0032	11.000.000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.32	0.33	0.32	.33	850.000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.34	0.34	0.34	34	240.000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0034	0.0032	0.0034	11.000.000
Sinophil Corp.	0.022	0.022	0.022	.022	100.000
South China Resources Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200.000

Gov't expects ₱3.2B in savings from deal with Salcon Power

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT has clinched a settlement with independent power producer Salcon Power which would yield as much as $57.44 million or about P3.2 billion in savings for the national coffers, an energy official said yesterday.

Edgardo del Fonso, president of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm), said in a statement that the settlement involved Napocor's buyout of Salcon Power's contract to operate land-based gas turbines (LBGT).

It also included Salcon Power's assumption of the separation pay of those working on the LBGTs and the waiver of salary differential claims.

The energy company operates power generators under a 15-year rehabilitate-operate-maintain-manage contract with Napocor, which will expire in 2009.

Salcon Power also operates Napocor's Naga power facility in Cebu, which has a total installed capacity of 203.8 megawatts.

The Naga power complex houses two units of LBGT with installed capacity 27.5 MW each, two units of coal-fired thermal plants with a combined capacity of 105 MW and six diesel generating units with a capacity of 7.3 MW each.

Last February, the Department of Energy announced that the government had saved about $850 million or about P44 billion from the renegotiation of IPP deals.

In a related development, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said last week that talks on Napocor's contract with CalEnergy International on the $650-million Casecnan irrigation/power project were expected to be wrapped up "soon."

Civil society groups regard this deal as "one of the most onerous contracts" with independent power producers.

In August, ranking energy official said negotiating teams from Psalm and CalEnergy had adopted a term sheet or talking points, which was the basis on discussions that had started as early as July.

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of Petron Corp. approved the awarding of the engineering, procurement and construction contract for the Terminal Integration Pandacan Scale Down Project to JGC Philippines. The company will also create a direct retailing subsidiary in Subic.

* * *

AGP Industrial Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 13, 4 p.m. at the Mondragon House, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 22 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

SOUTH China Resources Inc. will change its primary purpose to that of a holding company while its current primary purpose of oil exploration will be among its secondary purpose. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

9 firms vie for management of GSIS fund

By Elena R. Torrijos

NINE local and foreign financial institutions are vying to manage part of state-controlled Government Service Insurance System's P98-billion portfolio of investments, excluding loans.

During the relaunch yesterday of the pension fund's Kinabukasan Mutual Fund, which is now managed by Philippine Asset Management Inc., GSIS executive vice president Reynaldo Palmiery said GSIS was planning to outsource the management of P6-P8 billion out of the fund's P98-billion portfolio to two to four fund managers.

Palmiery said that nine financial institutions presented proposals for fund management. He said a decision should be made on how much of the fund would be covered and which fund managers would be chosen by the first two weeks of November.

The institutions that submitted bids were ABN-AMRO Bank, PAMI under the American International Group, Bank of the Philippines, Banco de Oro Universal Bank, Deutsche Bank, Equitable PCI Bank, First Metro Investments Corp. of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., ING N.V., Union Bank of the Philippines.

"The engagement of external fund managers is one of the recommendations of the Presidential Retirement Insurance Commission. It will provide a benchmark to gauge performance of the GSIS' in-house investment management. It will also improve efficiency and insulate GSIS from allegations of political interference," Palmiery said.

He also said that outsourcing would allow the GSIS to improve its efficiency because of transfer of technology from experienced global or local fund managers.

GSIS vice president Reynaldo Nograles said the investment portfolio to be outsourced would consist of equities and fixed income securities.

In the meantime, the GSIS earlier tapped PAMI to manage the Kinabukasan Mutual Fund, replacing Worldwide Investment Management Co.

GSIS president Winston Garcia said that from May this year to September, the Kinabukasan Fund's yield amounted to 14.3 percent and its total assets exceeded P700 million.

PAMI is one of the largest investment company managers in the country in terms of authorized and paid-up capital.

CURRENCIES

October 22, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.856971463	1.000000	54.787000
Japan	Yen	0.007828	0.009135	0.500500
United Kingdom	Pound	1.435084	1.674600	91.746300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.110542	0.128991	7.067000
Switzerland	Franc	0.644146	0.751654	41.180900
Canada	Dollar	0.652235	0.761093	41.698000
Singapore	Dollar	0.492513	0.574713	31.486800
Australia	Dollar	0.599281	0.699301	38.312600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.273255	2.652661	145.331300
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.228526	0.266667	14.609900
Brunei	Dollar	0.491101	0.573066	31.396600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000101	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021441	0.025019	1.370700
UAE	Dirham	0.233342	0.272287	14.917800
Euro	Euro	1	1.166900	63.931000
Argentina	Peso	0.30122	0.351494	19.257300
Brazil	REAL	0.299013	0.348918	19.116200
Denmark	Kroner	0.13457	0.157030	8.603200
India	Rupee	0.018938	0.022099	1.210700
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.225549	0.263193	14.419600
Mexico	New Peso	0.076962	0.089807	4.920300
New Zealand	Dollar	0.516155	0.602301	32.998300
Norway	Kroner	0.12062	0.140752	7.711400
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014982	0.017483	0.957800
South Africa	Rand	0.120341	0.140426	7.693500
Korea	Won	0.000725	0.000846	0.046300
Sweden	Kroner	0.110664	0.129134	7.074900
Syria	Pound	0.020404	0.023810	1.304500
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025205	0.029412	1.611400
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000537	0.000627	0.034400

Ayala, SingTel ink deal on Globe stake purchase

AYALA Corp., Singapore Telecom Pte. Ltd. and Globe Telecom Inc. said they had signed a definitive agreement on their purchase of a total 37.7 million of Globe shares from DeTeAsia Holding GmbH of Deutsche Telekom AG at P680 per share or a total of P25.636 billion.

In separate disclosures to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Ayala, which is buying 10.04 million Globe shares, said that the deal was expected to be finalized on Oct. 30. Globe, for its part, said it was expecting to complete the buyback of 12 million of its shares this Friday.

Singapore Telecom, a wholly owned unit of Singapore Telecommunications Ltd., will acquire 15.64 million shares of Globe.

The Singapore and Ayala groups are the largest shareholders of publicly listed Globe.

Elena R. Torrijos

Negotiated sale of NSC planned

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE CREDITOR-BANKS of the mothballed National Steel Corp. have agreed to enter into negotiations with Global Infrastructure Holdings Ltd. (GIHL), which is part of the Ispat group of India, for the sale of the local steel mill's assets.

Omar Mier, executive vice president of NSC's biggest creditor Philippine National Bank, yesterday told the INQUIRER the banks would like to negotiate for a better price for NSC's assets.

Mier also said that since GIHL had submitted the better offer compared with that of the only other bidder, LMN Group, the banks would give the former the right to present a new package that would be more acceptable to the banks.

"We hope to finish this in two weeks' time," Mier said.

A source from the GIHL camp said representatives from the Indian firm, which is owned by the Mittal family, would arrive in Manila this week to negotiate with NSC's creditors.

"They are willing to push the numbers," the source said, noting that it was indeed possible to close a deal over the next two weeks.

GIHL had offered P13 billion for NSC but this would be paid over 10 years. Mier said the banks deemed the proposed payment period was too long.

The other bidder had offered to purchase NSC's assets for P1.2 billion to be paid in cash but this was tied to the resolution of all court cases involving NSC's plants in Iligan. The payment will be made one year after the cases are resolved.

NSC's creditors are PNB, Credit Agricole Indosuez, Land Bank of the Philippines, China Banking Corp., Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Equitable PCI Bank, United Coconut Planters Bank, Export & Industry Bank, Wise Capital Investment & Trust Co., Bank of Commerce, United Overseas Bank, Allied Banking Corp., Bank of the Philippine Islands and Development Bank of the Philippines.

INTEREST RATES

October 22, 2003-MART1 Rates

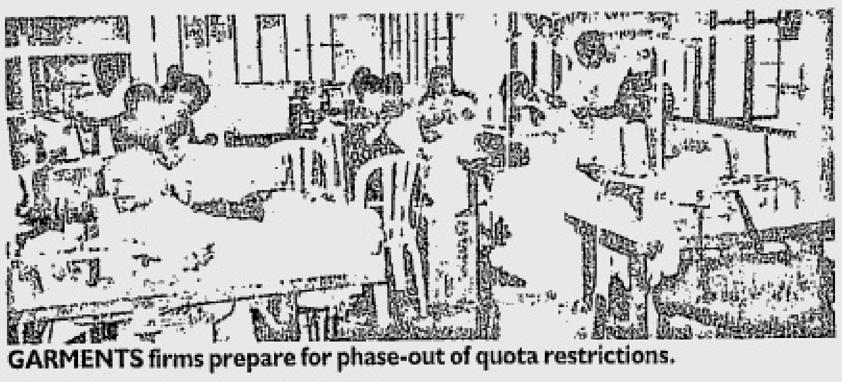
Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 22-Oct-03	MART1 21-Oct-03
1 Month	6.25	6.2654
3 Months	6.2768	6.2558
6 Months	7.2733	7.25
1 Year	7.8617	7.8867
2 Years	8.4567	8.475
3 Years	9.1917	9.195
4 Years	9.9483	10.0268
5 Years	10.2983	10.345
7 Years	10.925	10.9683
10 Years	11.0833	11.1967
20 Years	11.6036	11.915
25 Years	12.0177	12.14

SOURCE MART/BLOOMBERG

SLIGHT INCREASE

Garments, textile exports reached $2.156B in Sept.

By Michelle V. Remo


GARMENTS firms prepare for phase-out of quota restrictions.

THE COUNTRY'S garments and textile exports expanded by a mere 1.48 percent year-on-year from $2.124 billion to $2.156 billion as of end-September, according to the Garments and Textile Export Board.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II earlier said the slightly higher export earnings was due to the garments and textile industry's efforts to prepare for the phase-out of quota restrictions.

He said industry members have invested heavily in technology and the upgrading of workers' skills.

The United States remained the biggest export market, accounting for almost 75 percent of the total exports at $1.591 billion, which was a fraction higher than last year's $1.577 billion.

Exports to European countries, meanwhile, reached $263.478 million, 8 percent lower than last year's $243.773 million.

The country's biggest export markets in Europe incl ude Great Britain ($80.664 million), Germany ($58.075 million), Benelux ($50.271 million) and France ($33.763 million).

Hands On Manila's Serv-A-Thon

ON Oct. 25, Hands On Manila Foundation Inc. together with the University of Asia and the Pacific will undertake the country's first Serv-A-Thon.

Serv-A-Thon is a service marathon aimed to promote the spirit of community volunteerism. Companies and students will be going to different Metro Manila non-profit organizations to volunteer in a diverse range of simple service projects.

For a day, different teams will brighten up children's shelters with painted walls, share their creative flair in designing T-shirts, spend a fun-filled afternoon in a bowling clinic or spruce up a neglected yard with colorful ornamental plants.

Participating companies include Mirant Philippines, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Dentsu Philippines Inc., Starbucks, Popeye's Chicken and Biscuits and Kenny Rogers Roasters.

For more information, call Hands On Manila Foundation Inc. at 843-7044 or 845-5231.

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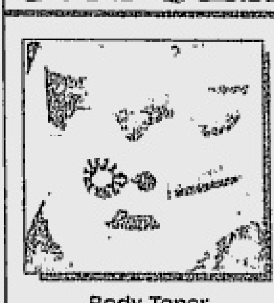
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Gov't share in MRT-7 down to $90M–Neri

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications has convinced proponents of the Metro Rail Transit 7 (MRT-7) to reduce the government's counterpart fund for the project from $800 million to $90 million.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the proponents would have to "redesign" the project's cost and financing structure to allow the government to shell out less cash.

"We have to convince the players to drastically reduce the government support required because they were asking for about $800 million before, which we cannot afford," he said.

The project's proponents are now revising their project proposal to bring down the cost of the railway system. The DOTC would then submit the revised proposal to the Neda for approval.

The $1.4-billion proposed MRT-7 will run from Marilao in Bulacan to Edsa, passing through the La Mesa Dam reservoir, Fairview, Batasan, University of the Philippines in Diliman, Philcoa and Edsa-Quezon Avenue.

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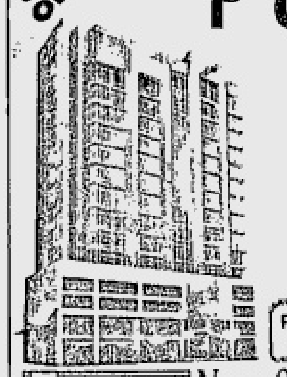

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LBP set to auction debt papers

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED Land Bank of the Philippines is set to auction next week P1.85 billion worth of investment certificates.

The auction is part of the government's plan to develop the Virginia tobacco-producing provinces.

Proceeds from the auction would be given to Abra, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and La Union.

These provinces are entitled to a 15 percent share in the tobacco excise tax collections for 2001 and 2002 as provided under Republic Act 7171.

The law grants special financial support to tobacco-producing provinces, which provide the raw material for the local cigarette manufacturing industry.

A Landbank official yesterday said it would bid out the investment certificates in the form of two-year zero-coupon bonds to local investors. The auction, tentatively scheduled for Oct. 29, would be coursed through the Bureau of Treasury's electronic bidding system.

The papers will mature on Sep. 30, 2005 and are fully guaranteed by the government. The bid yield shall be capped at 9.125 percent, representing a premium over the average 8.457 percent fetched by a two-year treasury bond in the secondary market.

The Monetary Board will decide in its meeting today if investments in the LBP certificates could be considered a compliance with the law requiring banks to set aside 25 percent of their loanable funds to the agricultural sector.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 72
ANTIPOLO CITY

DALIA FEMENTERA-CACCAM,
Plaintiff,
SP. PROC. NO. 02-1151
MELECIO CACCAM,
Defendant
x-----------------------------x

DECISION

This is a verified petition for the declaration of presumptive death of Melecio Caccam filed by Dalia Fementera-Caccam, pursuant to Article 41 of the Family Code of the Philippines for purposes of facilitating the requirements needed in her application to work overseas.

Service of summons was effected through publication since Melecio Caccam could not be located at his addresses. Thus, summons and notice of hearing was published in a newspaper of general circulation once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks.

Petition was set for hearing and during the initial hearing, petitioner through counsel established the jurisdictional requirements. No opposition appeared during the hearing.

Said petition alleges that plaintiff is married to defendant Melecio Caccam on May 8, 1978, their marriage solemnized by Hon. Judge Peralta of Lebak, Sultan Kudarat (Exhibit "G"). The petitioner and her spouse had three (3) children, namely: Jenlyn Grace, born on July 23, 1979, Geneveve born on July 13, 1982, and the youngest Jonnel, born on April 5, 1988 (Exhibits "H", "I" and "J").

On or before their marriage on May 8, 1978, plaintiff already noticed signs of psychological incapacity of defendant consisting of habitual drunkenness, laziness, prone to being abusive, cruel and uncaring husband but for their children's sake, plaintiff tried to endure the physical and verbal abuse she got from him. Unable to bear any further the hardship she experienced from living with the defendant, plaintiff decided to leave him for Manila to find work. She brought with her their three (3) children because she thought that by leaving him in Kalico, Pres. Quirino, Sultan Kudarat, he might eventually reform and mend his wayward ways but this did not turn out as she expected. Defendant persisted with his own troubled life and totally did not communicate anymore with his family since then or for more than thirteen (13) years to date. Despite plaintiff's personal efforts to locate him when she went to Kalico, Pres. Quirino, Sultan Kudarat and even in Lebak, Sultan Kudarat, to the extent of inquiring for his whereabouts from her own family, in-laws, her brother and with relatives, nobody could tell where he is. Until such time she was informed that a certain man belonging to the Caccam clan had been found dead several days in the deep forest of Kalico. Upon verification from her in-laws, they entertained the idea that the man could be Melecio Caccam.

Prior to visiting her hometown, plaintiff sought to annul her marriage with defendant as she filed a case to declare the nullity of her marriage on January 10, 2002 docketed as Civil Case No. 02-0300 lodged before Branch 72 of RTC, Antipolo City (Exhibit "K"). Summons together with a copy of the complaint was not, however served upon defendant as per return of the Process Server, Ferdinand Diaz of the Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Lutayan, Kalico, showed that defendant could not be located at his given address (Exhibit "L"). This prompted plaintiff to inquire from her own family, from her in-laws, and from relatives and friends, both in Kalico and in Lebak towns for her husband's whereabouts but all her efforts proved futile and negative. This led and prompted the plaintiff to withdraw her complaint for annulment of marriage by filing a motion to withdraw (Exhibit "M") which the court granted in an order dated July 2, 2002 (Exhibit "N"). After which, plaintiff filed the present case for the declaration of presumptive death of defendant-husband on the ground that for the past more than thirteen (13) years, not a single communication, a word or a letter came from defendant. Neither does her in-laws, nor her own family, friends and relatives have heard of Melecio's whereabouts during the past thirteen years, until the last information was that they found a dead man, dead for days in the forest of Kalico town, believed to be Melecio. This was confirmed to her by no less than the family of the defendant that the dead man could be Melecio.

Considering the petitioner's spouse has been missing for the past thirteen (13) years and his whereabouts are unknown to petitioner, his family of origin and his immediate relatives, despite earnest efforts to look for him, petitioner filed this instant case for the declaration of the presumptive death of the absent spouse.

An Ex-Parte Hearing before the Branch Clerk of Court Atty. Sorongon was held on June 26, 2003 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the Regional Trial Court of Antipolo City. Plaintiff appeared with counsel who testified on matters relative to her husband's alleged death and other material allegations and in the course of the proceedings marked the following exhibits, to wit:

Exhibit "G" – Marriage Certificate of Melecio & Dalia Caccam;
Exhibit "H" – Certificate of Birth of Jenlyn Grace Caccam,
Exhibit "I" – Certificate of Birth of Geneveve Caccam;
Exhibit "J" – Certificate of Birth of Jonnel Caccam,
Exhibit "K" – Complaint for Annulment of Marriage;
Exhibit "L" – Officer's Return on the Service of Summon,
Exhibit "M" – Motion to Withdraw Petition for Annulment of Marriage;
Exhibit "N" – Order dated July 2, 2002 granting the Petition For Annulment.
Exhibit "O" – Photocopy of Dalia Fementera's Passport.

Dalia Fementera Caccam filed this Petition for the Declaration of Presumptive Death of her spouse Melecio P. Caccam. The grounds relied upon by the plaintiff was the non-existence of her husband for the past thirteen (13) years after the latter abandoned his family. She alleged that for such period of time no news was heard about her husband neither did he communicated to her and their children and the circumstances surrounding Melecio's alleged death.

Plaintiff and defendant did not acquire conjugal properties except few pieces of appliances which had been purchased by the plaintiff out of her earnings from overseas employment which are under her custody. Plaintiff alleges that Melecio Caccam did not leave any debts nor any obligation.

Article 390 of the Civil Code provides that:

> "After an absence of seven years, it being unknown whether or not the absentee still lives, he shall be presumed dead for all purposes, except for those of succession.
>
> The absentee shall not be presumed dead for the purpose of opening his succession till after an absence of ten years. If he disappeared after the age of seventy five years, an absence of five years shall be sufficient in order that his succession may be opened."

To recall, this case may be traced from the Petition for Annulment previously filed by Dalia against Melecio. Summon was issued in that case directing Melecio to file his answer but to no avail for reason that Melecio could no longer be located and no longer residing at the given address. With this fact, Dalia went to the latter's hometown to search her husband but despite painstaking effort to locate him the same proved futile. Hence, she withdrew the case and filed this Petition for Declaration of *Presumptive Death*.

Petitioner is seeking the declaration of the presumptive death of her absent spouse under Article 41 of the Family Code. Her spouse has been missing for at least more than thirteen (13) years, it being unknown whether or not he is still alive, and the petitioner having a well-founded belief that her absent spouse is already dead.

WHEREFORE, in view of the foregoing considerations, the petition is hereby granted and petitioner's husband MELECIO CACCAM is declared presumptively dead.

Considering that summons in this case was served through publication, let a copy of this decision be published in a newspaper of general circulation.

Let a copy of this decision be furnished the Local Civil Registrar of Sultan Kudarat for recording.

SO ORDERED.
September 09, 2003 at Antipolo City.

(Sgd.) RUTH C. SANTOS
Judge

(PDI-October 23, 2003)

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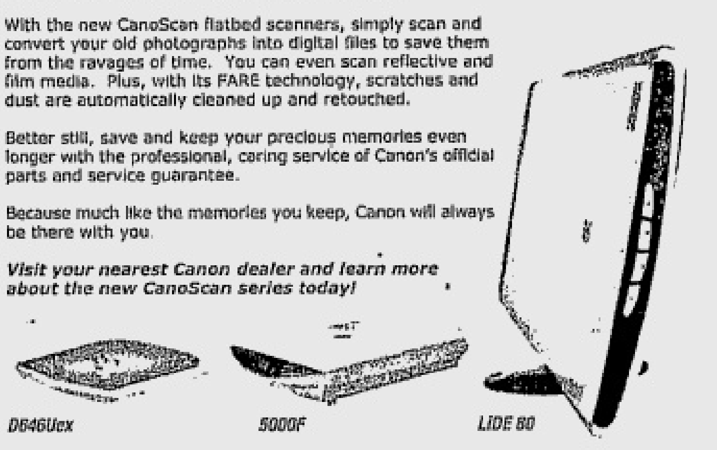

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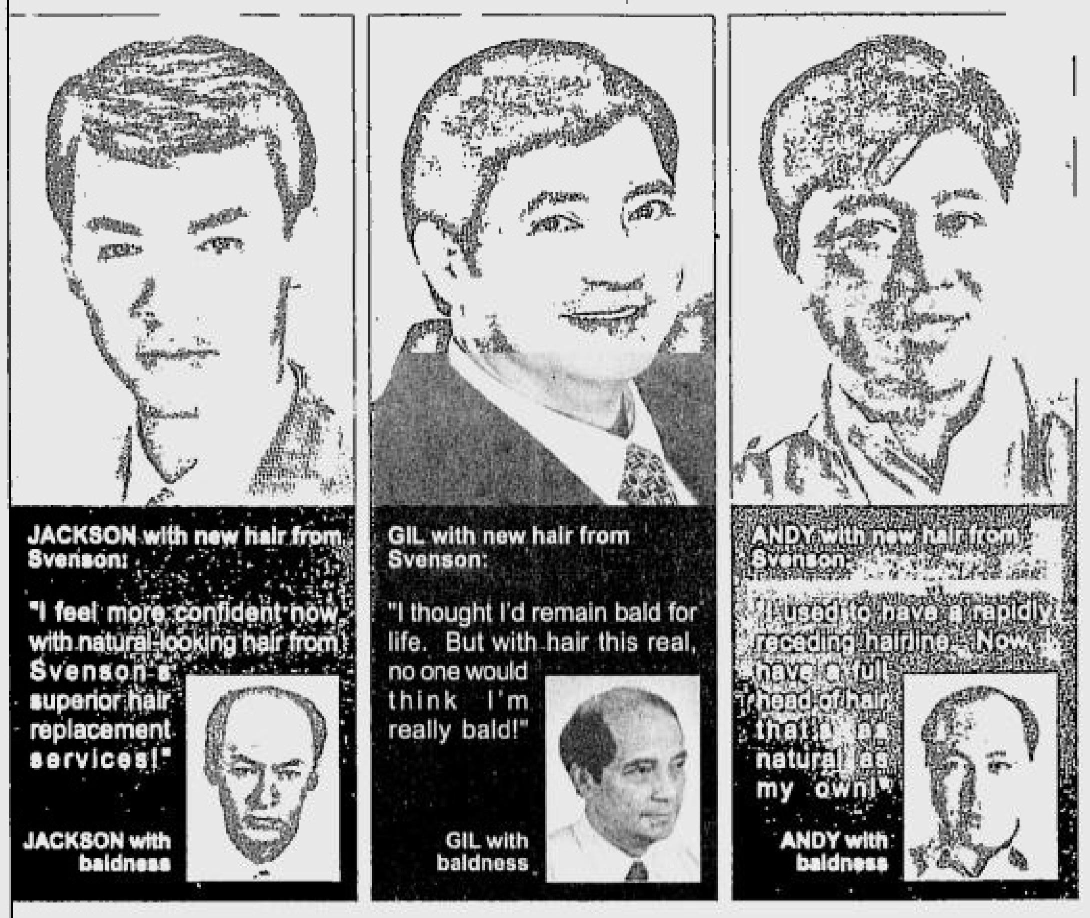

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SM CITY PAMPANGA
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4. BUGBOG SARADO
5. MATCHSTICKMEN
6. UTANG NG AMA

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1. HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
2. FREAKY FRIDAY
3. THE RUNDOWN
4. MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
5. THE SUSPECT
6. BELPHEGOR
7. UTANG NG AMA
8. UNDERWORLD
9. AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
10. BUGBOG SARADO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
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2. THE SUSPECT
3. FREAKY FRIDAY
4. MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
5. AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
6. UTANG NG AMA
7. THE RUNDOWN
8. UNDERWORLD
9. BUGBOG SARADO
10. ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
11. KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
12. HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES

SM CITY DAVAO
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1. THE RUNDOWN
2. MATCHSTICKMEN
3. MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
4. UTANG NG AMA
5. AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
6. THE MEDALLION

SM CITY LUCENA
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1. FREAKY FRIDAY
2. UTANG NG AMA
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4. FREDDY VS. JASON

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4. "HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN MUST BE FILIPINO"
5. AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
6. MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
7. BELPHEGOR
8. HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
9. UTANG NG AMA
10. UNDERWORLD
11. BUGBOG SARADO
12. KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

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1. THE RUNDOWN
2. BELPHEGOR
3. BUGBOG SARADO
4. UTANG NG AMA

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1. KISKISAN
2. RESERVED
3. FREDDY VS. JASON
4. THE RUNDOWN
5. AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
6. HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
7. RESERVED
8. UTANG NG AMA

SM CITY MANILA
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1. THE RUNDOWN
2. MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3. FREAKY FRIDAY
4. AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
5. THE SUSPECT
6. UNDERWORLD
7. UTANG NG AMA
8. BELPHEGOR
9. HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
10. VISIBLE SECRET 2
11. KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
12. BUGBOG SARADO

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
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1. THE RUNDOWN
2. AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
3. UTANG NG AMA
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4	UNDERWORLD	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
5	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER	11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50
6	FREAKY FRIDAY	11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
7	BELPHEGOR	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
8	THE SUSPECT	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
9	AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING	12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00
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3. BELPHEGOR - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
4. UTANG NG AMA - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
5. FREAKY FRIDAY - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
6. MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER - 10:55, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45
7. AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00

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4. FREAKY FRIDAY
5. MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
6. BELPHEGOR: CURSE OF THE MUMMY
7. UTANG NG AMA
8. BUGBOG SARADO

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7. BELPHEGOR: CURSE OF THE MUMMY
8. BUGBOG SARADO

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MATCHSTICK MEN	3	BUGBOG SARADO
UTANG NG AMA	4	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
UNDERWORLD	5	UTANG NG AMA
THE RUNDOWN	6	BELPHEGOR

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THE RUNDOWN	1	THE RUNDOWN
FREDDY VS. JASON	2	FREDDY VS. JASON
THE MEDALLION	3	AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
FREDDY VS. JASON	4	UTANG NG AMA
AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING	5	KISKISAN
MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER	6	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES

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THE RUNDOWN	1	MATCHSTICK MEN
UTANG NG AMA	2	BUGBOG SARADO
MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER	3	UTANG NG AMA
UTANG NG AMA	4	SOON TO OPEN
BUGBOG SARADO	5	

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1. UTANG NG AMA
2. BUGBOG SARADO
3. THE RUNDOWN
4. BELPHEGOR: CURSE OF THE MUMMY

SOON TO OPEN

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MATCHSTICKMEN PG13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	BELPHEGOR PG13 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00	THE RUNDOWN PG13 11:45, 1:50, 3:55, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20

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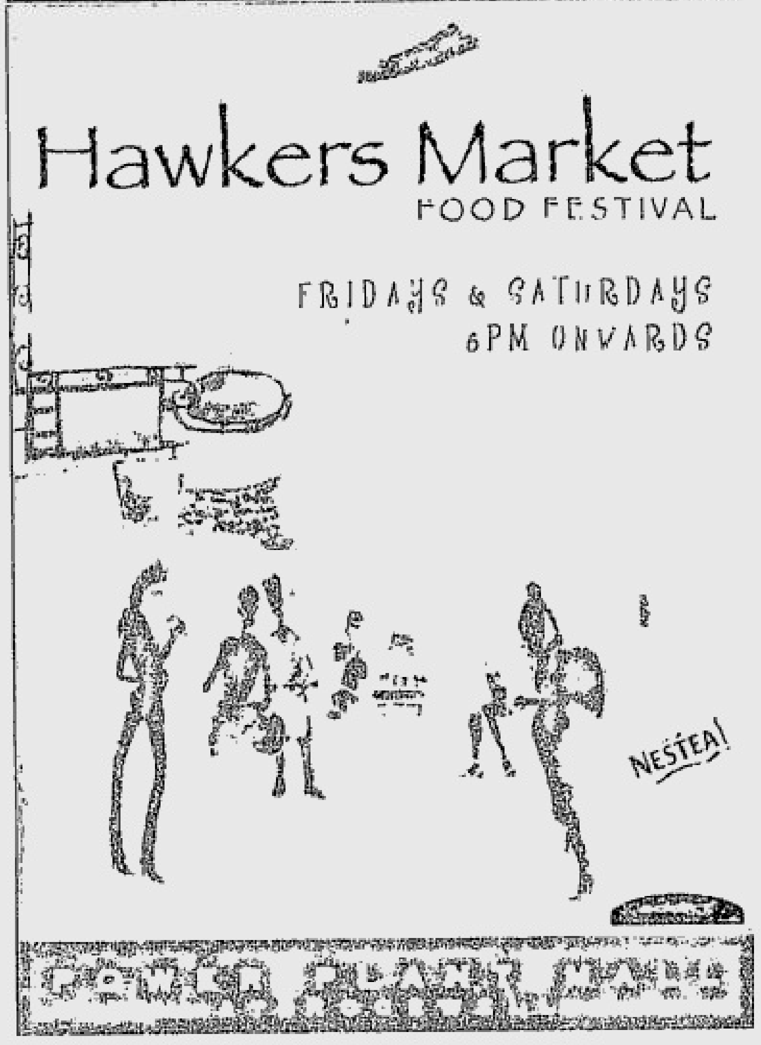
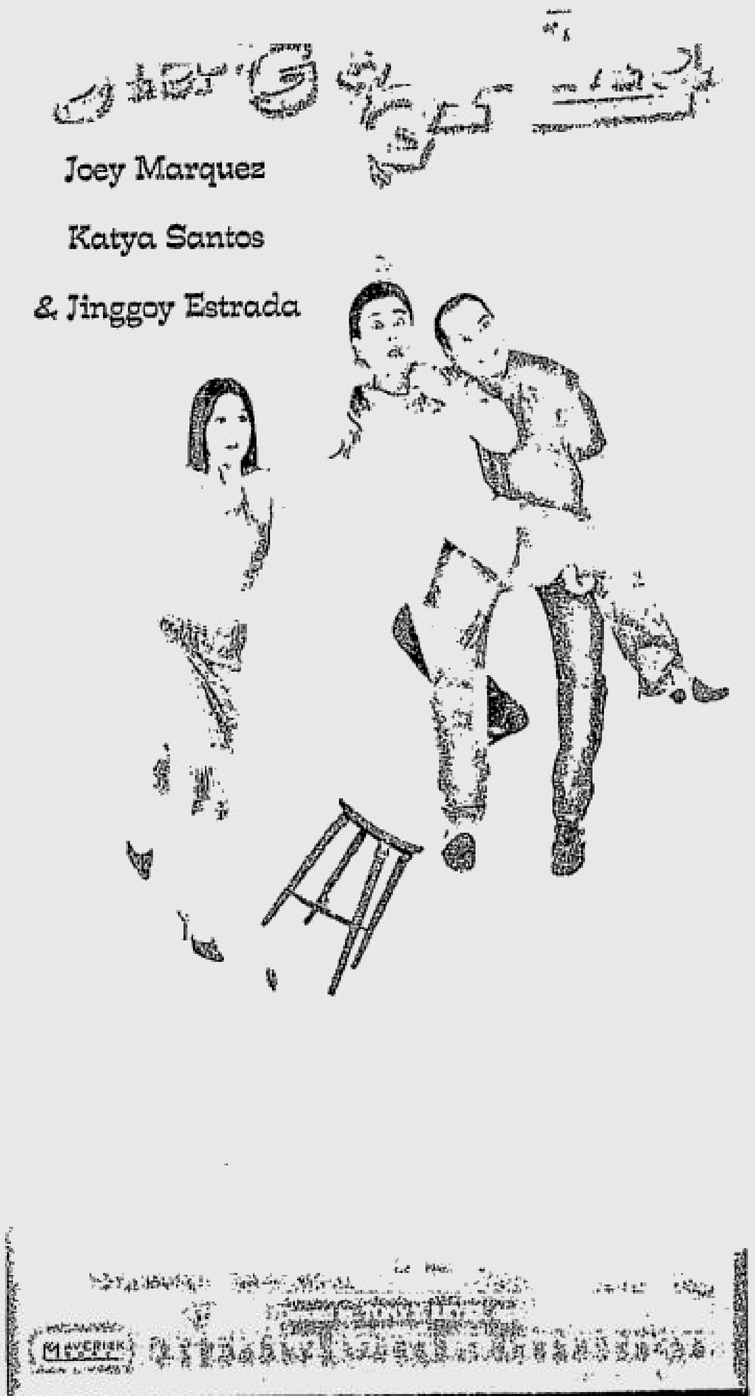


MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.



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1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

1HR FastCarLoan 7125202

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

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V. ZAMORA Lic. Auctioneer

Reyson Pawnshop 979 Aurora Bvld Q.C. Auction Sale on Nov 4 2003 of all expired pledges up to Dec 2002 V. Zamora Lic Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given of the estate of the late SALVADOR I. DEL ROSARIO was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc .3143 Page46 Book 460 Series2003 before Notary Public Jose L. Ma. Santos of Quezon City.
PDI-Oct.9. 16 & 23.2003

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late spouses RODOLFO G. PEÑA and ESTELA A. PEÑA was extra-judicially settled by the heirs as per Doc#112, Page#21, Book#111, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Atty. Ma. Girlene Alcantara of Bacoor, Cavite.
(PDI-October 16, 23 & 30, 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE OF LOSS
Notice is hereby given that Stock Certificate No. 0553 issued on February 17, 1981 to Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company, Inc. over one (1) Class A Share of the LUISITA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, INC. has been lost and cannot be located despite diligent efforts. Said share is now the property of Pepsi Co., Inc., Philippine Branch.
Raoul Santiago
Finance Director
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(PDI – Oct. 16, 23 & 30, 2003)

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In Compliance with RA 7041

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

A. CASE ASSESSMENT AND REINVESTIGATION BUREAU (CARB)

Special Prosecution Officer I – Item Nos. SPP01-3-1998; SPP01-5-1998 and SPP01-7-1998; SG-26; (3 Positions)

B. APPELLATE AND SPECIAL ACTION BUREAU (ASAB)

Special Prosecution Officer I – Item Nos. SPP01-27-1998; SPP01-31-1998 AND SPP01-33-1998; SG-26; (3 Positions)

C. PROSECUTION BUREAU

Special Prosecution Officer I – Item Nos. SPP01-1-1998; SPP01-2-1998; SPP01-28-1998; SPP01-29-1998; SPP01-30-1998; SG-26; (5 Positions)

Qualification Standards: Education – Bachelor of Laws; Experience – 3 years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training – 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility – RA 1080 (BAR)

Special Prosecution Officer III – Item Nos. SPP03-12-1998; SPP03-10-2003; SPP03-17-2003 and SPP03-18-2003; SG-28; (4 Positions)

Qualification Standards: Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: 5 years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

Interested applicants should submit applications "within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication" to the Human Resource Management Officer III at the Office of the Special Prosecutor, 5th Floor Sandiganbayan Centennial Building, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, the following: 1) an application letter stating the position/item applied for; 2) duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212); 3) 1" x 1" picture (colored); 4) BAR Rating/CSC Certificate of Eligibility; 5) Transcript of Records; 6) Certificate of Seminar/Training attended (CSC accredited) and 7) Certification from previous/present employment stating the position, actual duties and responsibilities.

I. **GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I (GIO I)**

A. **OFFICE OF THE CHIEF LEGAL AFFAIRS (OLA)** – Item Nos. OMBA-GI01-35-1998 AND OMBA-GI01-36-1998; SG-26 (2 Positions)

B. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU A (PIAB A)** – Item Nos. OMBA-GI01-45-1998; OMBA-GI01-46-1998 and OMBA-GI01-83-1998; SG-26 (3 Positions)

C. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU C (PIAB C)** – Item No. OMBA-GI01-107-1998; SG-26

Qualification Standards: Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: 3 years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related related work; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

II. **GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER II (GIO II)**

A. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU C (PIAB C)** – Item No. OMBA-GI020-14-1998; SG-27

B. **BUREAU OF RESIDENT OMBUDSMAN (BRO)** – Item No. OMBA-GI02-103-1998; SG-27

Qualification Standards: Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: 4 years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

III. **PLANNING AND BUDGET DIVISION, FMS**

BUDGET OFFICER II; Item No. OMBA-BUD02-1-1998; SG-15;

Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 1 year of relevant experience; Training: 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility.

BUDGETING ASSISTANT; Item No. OMBA-BAS-1-1998; SG-8
Education: Completion of two years studies in college; Experience: 1 year relevant experience; Training: 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional/First Level Eligibility.

IV. **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND CORRUPTION PREVENTION OFFICE (PACPO) – OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT OMBUDSMAN**

CLERK III – Item No. OMBA-CK3-17-1998; SG-6
Education: Completion of two years studies in college; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional/First Level Eligibility

DATA ENTRY MACHINE OPERATOR (DEMO) IV – Item No. OMBA-DEMO4-1-1998; SG-13
Education: Completion of two years studies in college or High School Graduate with relevant vocational/trade courses; Experience: 3 years of relevant experience; Training: 16 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional/Data Encoder (MC 11, s. '96-Cat. I) / 1st Level Eligibility

Interested applicants should submit applications "within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication" to the Human Resource Management Division, at the above address the following: 1) an application letter stating the position/item applied for; 2) duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212); 3) 1" x 1" picture (colored); 4) BAR Rating/CSC Certificate of Eligibility; 5) Transcript of Records; 6) Certificate of Seminar/Training attended (CSC accredited) and 7) Certification from previous/present employment stating the position, actual duties and responsibilities.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Naga, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as "Medium A" to apply for registration and eligibility, and if found eligible, to bid for the following projects under the Build and Transfer Scheme as governed by RA 6957, as amended, and by Naga City Ordinance No. 2001-074. More specifically, project payment will be one year from completion at a fixed interest rate.

Name of Project and Location	Equipment Needed	Contract Duration	Approved budget
Construction of Calauag-San Felipe Storm Drainage System, Naga City	Back hoe, Welding machine Concrete mixer	250 days	P 8,867,500.00
Hauling of Earthfill at Brgy. Queborac, Urban Poor Site, Bag. 'Sur, Naga City	Loader, Dump trucks, Grader Road Roller	240 days	P 7,569,100.00

The Checklist of Registration and Eligibility Requirements will be available to interested bidders for issuance starting **October 8, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office (CPDO), Naga City. Interested bidders shall submit their letter of intent and their registration and eligibility requirements to the CPDO not later than 12 noon on **October 29, 2003**, and secure the results of the eligibility screening on **October 31**.

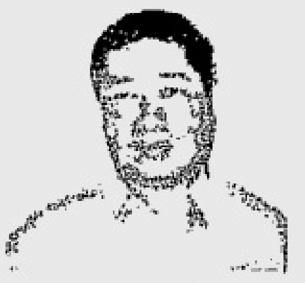
Bid documents will be issued to eligible bidders until **November 7, 2003** upon payment to the City Treasurer's Office of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 per project. Eligible bidders must attend a pre-bid conference on **November 14, 2003** at 3:00 p.m. at the Bicol. Science Centrum Conference Room, Naga City. Deadline for the submission of bids is until 12:00 noon, **November 28, 2003** at the CPDO. Opening of bids will start at 2:00 p.m. on the same day.

The Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any minor defects in order to obtain the most advantageous offer to the city government. The City Government will not compensate nor indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation and submission of their bid.

JESSE M. ROBREDO
City Mayor

(PDI--Oct. 9, 16 & 23, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



The public is hereby notified that **HENRY E. TAN,** whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with **VETTE INDUSTRIAL SALES** since ***OCT. 15, 2003***. All transaction made on the said date and after will not be honored by the company.

(PDI – October 23, 2003)

Office of the President

BCDA

Bases Conversion Development Authority

Invitation to Submit Proposals Offering of Heritage Park Investment Certificates

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested brokers to participate in the Offering of the Heritage Park Investment Certificates (HPICs) at Area 2 in the Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila with an approximate total area of 2.28 hectares.

Interested brokers may submit their Letter of Intent to BCDA. The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Offering of the HPICs will be ready for distribution to interested proponents on 17 October 2003 at the BCDA office. The TOR will outline the requirements that will enable participation in the privatization. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is Php1,000.00 payable to BCDA.

A conference among interested proponents is tentatively set on 05 November 2003 at 2:00 P.M. The objective of the conference is to discuss the property and project structure that form part of the Offering of HPICs, the TOR and other clarifications from interested brokers. Interested brokers will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to BCDA.

Interested brokers can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP Committee (ADPCom)
BCDA Corporate Center
Gozar cor. Lucas Sts., Villamor Air Base
Pasay City

or they can contact Ms. Bambie L. Andal and/or Ms. Mae G. Celestino at telephone nos. 510-0411 or 551-3006 to 11 and can write at the following email addresses: **blandal@bcda.gov.ph** or **mdcelestino@bcda.gov.ph**

(Sgd.) **RUFO COLAYCO**
President and CEO

(PDI-Oct. 18, 23 & 29, 2003)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED TG BANK (RURAL BANK OF SAN PABLO CITY, INC.)

1. Starting October 24, 2003, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed TG Bank (Rural Bank of San Pablo City, Inc.).

2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank from October 24 to November 18, 2003, to file claims for insured deposits.

   PDIC representatives are stationed at the premises of the closed bank on the above cited dates to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors during office hours, Monday to Friday.

   After the said dates, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC Office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., or by mail addressed to-

   The Manager
   Claims Processing Department
   Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
   2228 Chino Roces Avenue
   1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims:

   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Bank Statement and/or Certificate of Time Deposits.
   b. Latest identification documents (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

   Other documents maybe required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

4. Pursuant to the provision of R.A. 3591, as amended, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed TG Bank (Rural Bank of San Pablo City, Inc.) is on March 26, 2005. After March 26, 2005, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI–Oct. 23 & 26, 2003)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City

October 15, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

Name of Project : **Procurement of Hardware and Software for the BIR Internet Facility**
Location of the Project : **BIR National Office**
Approved Budget : **P10,000,000.00**

All interested parties may get the bidding documents from the BAC Secretariat, c/o Procurement Division at Room 605, 6th Floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City starting **October 17, 2003**, upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos Only (P2,000.00)**.

A pre-Bid Conference will be held on **November 3, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **6th Floor, Room No. 605, Procurement Division, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City**.

Deadline for the submission and opening of eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be on **November 18, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.** at **3rd Floor, Executive Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City**, and followed by the opening of the bids.

The criteria to be used by the BIR in the following: (a) eligibility check of prospective bidders; (b) examination and evaluation of bids; and (c) postqualification, shall be on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis.

The BIR assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any excuse or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC Secretariat, thru the Chief, Procurement Division at Room 605, 6th Floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 926-5547/926-5538 and telefax no. 928-2026 (fax), or e-mail us at nelly.ibo@bir.gov.ph until **November 17, 2003**.

(Sgd.) **MILAGROS V. REGALADO**
Assistant Commissioner - Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct. 23, 2003)

Bring the whole family and join the fun at "FAMILY AFFAIR BAZAAR" with fun-filled activities like acoustic music, stand up comedians, dance contests, hourly raffles, cooking demos, kiddie shows and special guests Anthony & Maricel Pangilinan.

This will be on November 7 to 9, 2003 at the Motortown, Alabang Town Center from 2 p.m. to 12 midnight Friday & Saturday and 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday.

This is brought to you by Excellent Ideas Bazaar and Exhibit Organizer.

Aubrey's "Sanib" at Virgin Café

WATCH Out! "Sanib" a sexy halloween musical comedy show, on Oct. 30, 8 p.m. at Virgin Café Tomas Morato Quezon City, featuring sexy actress Aubrey Miles, with stand up comedians, Boney, Donita, Aekaye, Ace and Kikay, doing the spoof of horror movie "Sanib" with special guest Juan Ramiro. The show is sponsored by Bench, Avia, Compuadd, Belo Medical Group, and Boysquad. Tickets available at Virgin Café or for reservation call 637-8360 or 634-3197 or 718-1885.

OBITUARIES

PLACIDA SAN LUIS CASTRO

Of Plaridel and Marilao, Bulacan
Wife of the late Dr. Jesus F. Castro

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 22, 2003
at the age of 86.

Her loving children **JOSEPHINE** (JOSIE), **CARMENCITA** (INGGAY), **ANTONIO** (BOY), **MARIA LUISA** (MARIE), **REYMUNDO** (BUDONG) and **MARGARITA** (TITING); sons-in-law **HENRY GUIYAB** and **BONG VALENCIA**, daughters-in-law **BRENDA FOZ** and **MA. CECILIA GOMEZ;** grandchildren **MELISSA, JEFFREY, MELANIE,** and **JOHN GUIYAB, ANNA PAOLA** and **MA. JOANNA CASTRO, MARK** and **MEGAN VALENCIA, MA. MICHAELA VIDA** (KAYLA) and **JOSE FRANCISCO** (JAY) **CASTRO;** sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at their family residence
at No. 456 Gov. Padilla Road, Poblacion, Plaridel, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 25, 2003
at the Plaridel Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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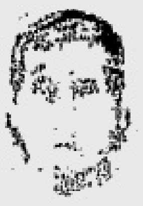
JOSE BOLIVAR BURDEOS, SR.



of Butuan City
Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on
October 16, 2003 at the age of 90.

His loving wife **Jesusa Nonan Burdeos**; their children **Grace**, **Vilma**, **Jose Jr.**, **Benigno**, **Chito** and **Gerry**; in-laws, grandchildren, relatives and friends request those whose lives he has touched to pray for his eternal repose. May his memory live in our hearts forever. We wish to express our sincerest gratitude to all those who condoled with us and comforted us in our moment of grief.

His remains lie in state at the Ambassador Chapel, St. Peter Funeral Homes, Quezon City and will be transferred to Immaculate Concepcion Parish Church Karangalan Village, Pasig City on October 23, 2003. Interment will follow after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Heaven's Gate II.

VICTOR DY ONG

of Mayon Glass Service

Now peacefully rests in the Grace and Goodness of the Lord
on the 17th of October, 2003 at the age of 67.

His wife, **Lucia Ong**,
and children, **Lily & Benjamin**, **Robert & Cheryll**
and other relatives and friends request the pious readers
to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz,
Araneta Ave., Q.C. Interment will be on October 26, 2003
at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina
after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

"Only goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell
in the house of the Lord for years to come..." Psalm 23:6

AREOPAQUITA ARZADON-EVANGELISTA

(widow of the late Ambassador Pacifico Evangelista)

of Badoc, Ilocos Norte

Died in the Grace of Our Lord
on October 18, 2003 at the age of 81.

Her loving children, grandchildren, brothers, sister and relatives
request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at their family residence in Badoc, Ilocos Norte.

Interment will be at the Badoc Catholic Cemetery
on October 25, 2003 after the 8:00 A.M. Holy Mass
at the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Badoc, Ilocos Norte.

FR. RAFAEL CORTINA, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Saturday, 18 October 2003
in Bilbao, Spain

The wake and funeral took place in Spain. However, two special memorial Masses are scheduled for Fr. Cortina on Friday, 24 October: one in Xavier School (64 Xavier St., Greenhills West) at 8:30 in the morning; the second in Mary the Queen Parish (Madison St., Greehillls West) at 8:00 in the evening.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

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To our Beloved **TATAY** and **LOLO**,
"Thank you for all the loving memories.
We love you and we will forever miss you..."

JUAN S. NATIVIDAD, SR.

of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 17, 2003 at the age of 83.

Member: **Island Luz Minerva Lodge No. 5**
and
Memorial Lodge No. 90
Science City of Muñoz

His loving wife **JULIANA** (†); children and children-in-law **DR. AURORA & DR. MANNY SABA, M.D.**, **VIRGILIO** (†), **EVANGELINE & ENGR. ERNESTO NICOLAS**, **CELESTINA**, **ENGR. LUZVIMINDA**, **ENGR. JUAN JR. & THELMA MANDAC**, **JUAN 1 & MAY CENTENO**; grandchildren **DR. JO ANN**, **ENGR. JASON**, **JOHN PAULO**, **JOYCE ANN**, **JENELINE**, **JOHN LESTER**, **JANE MEAH**, **JOHN WAYNE**, **JOCHELLE MAAN** and **JAN MARC**; uncle **MSGR. JOSE DELA CRUZ**; brother **FAUSTINO**; sister **ADELAIDA**; sisters-in-law **ESTELA**, **ODONIA** (†), **ISABEL** (†), **ADRIANA** (†), nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Bayuga St., Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 25, 2003, 8:00 A.M. at St. Margaret Memorial Park.

Fr. RAFAEL CORTINA, S.J.

Born : Bilbao, Spain, 4 September 1927
Died: Bilbao, Spain, 18 October 2003
Joined the Jesuits: 10 October 1944
Arrived in the Philippines: 1952
Ordained priest: 11 March 1958

Dear Fr. Cortina:

You were our mentor, tormentor, prefect of discipline, parish priest, soccer coach, guidance counsellor, spiritual director, surrogate father and Friend.

As children, we looked up to you in fear and in awe. As teenagers, we gave you sleepless nights. As adults, we confided in you and you counselled us.

Now that you are gone, we will miss you dearly.

Vaya con Dios, amigo-bandido. Muchas gracias, "lao-eh".

Xavier '72 Dragons

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm
For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

BIENVENIDO NORIEGA AHORRO

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on October 21, 2003 at the age of 70.

His bereaved wife **CHARITO**; children **VIC & SELENE**, **ERIC & CHRIS**, **MABEL & DAVID TESARIK**, **ME-ANN & NOEL SANTOS**, **ARNOLD & MYLENE**, **PINKY**, **ALBERT** and **EDWARD**; his grandchildren **BIANCA**, **NICO**, **MARCO**, **JULIAN**, **KRISTIAN**, **MARTIN**, **NICOLE**, **MATTHEW**, **MIGGY**, **KARL** and **ALYSSA**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

There will be a Holy Mass at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 25, 2003.
Cremation will follow at 5:00 p.m.

"The Lord is my strength and my shield in whom my heart trusted
and found help. So my heart rejoices; with my song I praise my God..."
Psalm 28:7

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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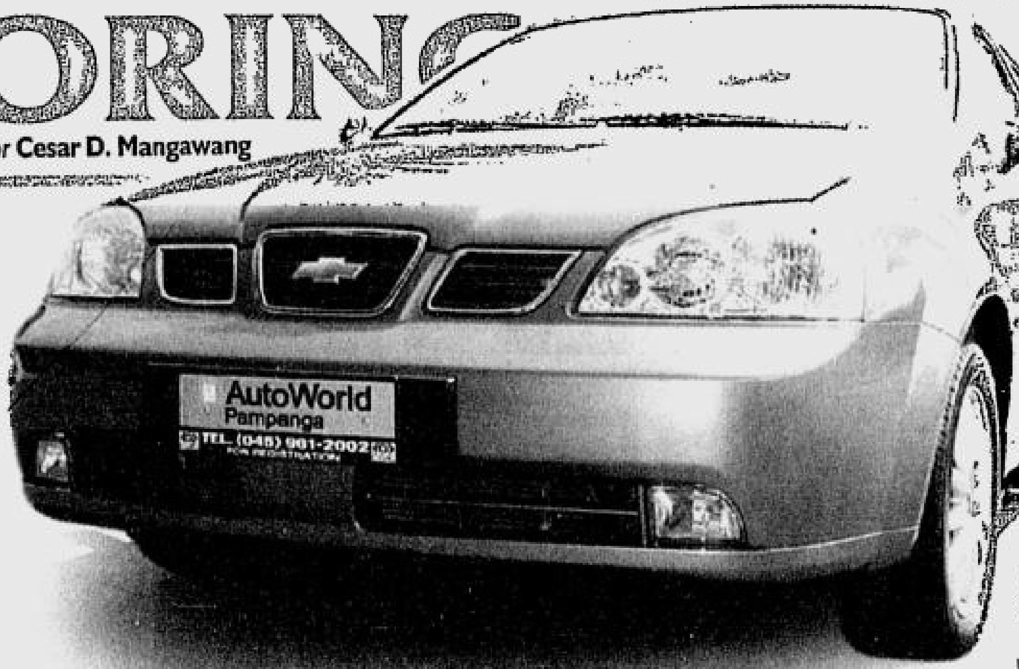
E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph



FOR A CAR that's cheap (only P635,000 for the M/T and P675,000 for the A/T) and with a silent engine, the Optra is it.

A closer look at the Optra

Text by Tessa R. Salazar
Photos by Alex Loinaz

(Last of three parts)

THE OPTRA 1.6-liter automatic transmission is comparatively equipped and wouldn't be left behind other 1600 sedans in the country.

Overall, the Optra is all "prim and proper" in its luxurious amenities, and the engine has enough spunk to hold its own in stop-and-go traffic and in open highways. The Optra, for sure, isn't "boring" and would merit a second look.

Cool to the eye

Stare at it all you want, and your eyes won't get red. The instrumentation light (white lining) for the speedometer, tachometer and other indicators is cool to the eye.

The downward-right sloping contour of the dashboard offers good visibility even for vertically challenged drivers.

The price won't make you squint, either. For P675,000 (A/T), with the Blaupunkt stereo system that has in-dash 5-disc CD changer thrown in, the Optra is nearly a steal. The only downside to having a stereo system built-in with the cockpit is that the option for an audio upgrade is eliminated. (But who wants to upgrade a Blaupunkt anyway?)

The handbrake, though, is a bit of a stretch, as it leans toward the driver too much and has to be pulled up so high. Understandable, though, since the handbrake has to deal with rear disc brakes.

Quite amusing

We found the horn quite amusing though, the "Beep! Beep!" reminding us of the feisty Road Runner of Wile E. Coyote's looney fantasies. The tiny fog lamps matched the honk, by the way.

Thoughtfully enough, vanity mirrors have been put on both the driver and front passenger's sun visors. Now the rearview mirror stays where it is.

Cupholders are abundant at the back and in front. Cubby holes are found on the driver's side, and even a tray for the front passenger.

Three-point seatbelts are now accorded to all five occupants.

Seats are well padded, neither too firm nor too soft. The steering wheel, though, is a tad stubborn for frail-bodied people. The gated type A/T shifting takes a bit of getting used to. Gated gearshifts protect drivers from accidental shifts while running.

Don't look for the trunk lever below the seat. It's there, shaped like a button at the lower part of the driver's door. This small detail actually imprints on the minds of drivers, making them think: "Now why didn't the others think of that?" Small details add to the Optra's personality.

The Yokohama's alloy 5.5J x 14 tires (185/65R14) provide sufficient grip and work well with the suspension in a total package, and most likely add to the Optra maker's claim of a comfy ride with minimum noise. If one changed the tires to 16" and lowered the body, perhaps the Optra might look "cooler." But that's just us. Ask your local dealer if you wish to make modifications, as these might affect overall ride and drive performance of any car.

THE INSTRUMENTATION light is cool to the eye.

Modern, dynamic look

The 1.6L A/T 16-valve E-TEC II DOHC 4-cylinder has a max power of 107 ps/5,800 rpm, a torque of 150Nm/400 rpm and a top speed of 184 kph.

The Optra is equipped with a Bosch 4-sensor, 4-channel anti-lock brake system with electronic brake force distribution for sudden stops. The vehicle's curb weigh is 1,185 kg and a fuel tank capacity of 60 liters.

We also found out that the Pininfarina design was appreciated here in the Philippines, despite its "simple" looks. On the surface (literally), the designer's intention of projecting a modern and dynamic look seems to be a success.

The Optra's "vital statistics" lifts it to the upper third of its class: a tread width of 1,480 mm, overall width of 1,725 mm, and a low 1,445 mm height.

Performance

The Optra's drag coefficient is indicated at 0.338 (in wind resistance is equivalent to 0.71 m2). GM claims that despite the Optra's many standard features, engineers have succeeded in keeping the curb weight down to between 1,175kg (M/T) and 1,220 kg (for its 1.8-liter A/T, which is not yet available in the Philippines).

Notwithstanding its impressive British-tuned suspension and 4-wheel-disc brakes, many "quartermilers" (racers) that we talked to observed the Optra wasn't the car for performance-car aficionados.

All of them, however, give a hands-down approval of the Optra's suspension. Professional drivers and passengers Bong, Eisel, Angel, Raymond and Alex even dared to say that they would want its suspension on any car—even on a Toyota Altis.

In terms of engine response, we'd say the A/T would be at par with the demands of everyday commuting requirements, and recommend it highly for young families. When you need to get from here to there—not in "no time at all" but in "just a little ahead of time," the Optra does it for you.

'Tale of the tape'

For budget-conscious parents looking for a 1.6-liter sedan with spacious interiors the Optra is 30 mm wider than the Toyota Altis at 1,460 mm, but it is slimmer than the Honda Civic's 1,490 mm. The Optra, however, is the longest at 1,925 mm compared to Civic's 1,920 and Altis' 1,915.

For its exterior, the "tale of the tape" shows the Optra measuring 1,725 mm wide, the Altis 1,705 mm and Civic 1,720 mm. The Optra's length of 4,500 mm, though, is 30 mm shorter than the Altis. The Civic is only 4,435 mm long. The Altis is highest at 1,480 mm, followed by the Optra at 1,445 mm and Civic at 1,440 mm.

The Optra is it (the Optra M/T being only P635,000 and P675,000 for the A/T) and you get a car that cheap and still brag about a silent engine.

But don't expect a Rolls Royce treatment. The Optra may purr contentedly in its comfort zone, but if you push it too hard, it'll screech like a cat cornered by a dog. That means, for young, upstart drivers out there, don't rev your Optras too hard. For that matter, don't rev any car that hard in ordinary driving.

The manufacturer's fuel consumption rate for highway drive of the Optra A/T is 12.34 km per liter.

Verdict: The engine is adequate, the look is attractive, the price irresistible. Gosh, it's a Chevy. Now there's only one question to ask your dealer. Would they still be around after the three-year or 100,000-km warranty has lapsed? After GM bigwigs in Thailand promised to stay in the region (and in the country) for good, plus the free periodic maintenance service offered by local dealers, wouldn't you think that's enough to suggest the biggest automotive company in the world finally takes the Philippine motorist seriously?

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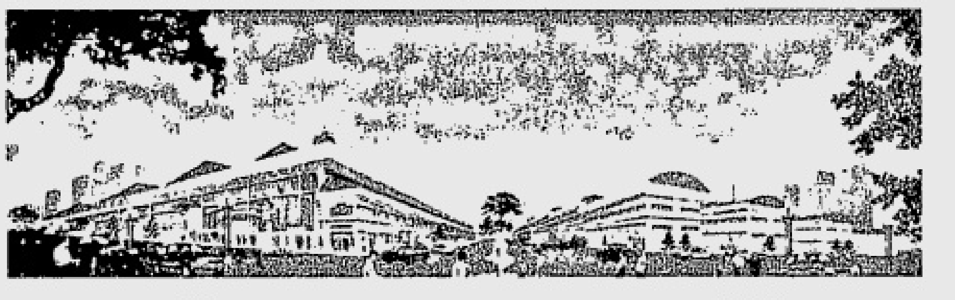

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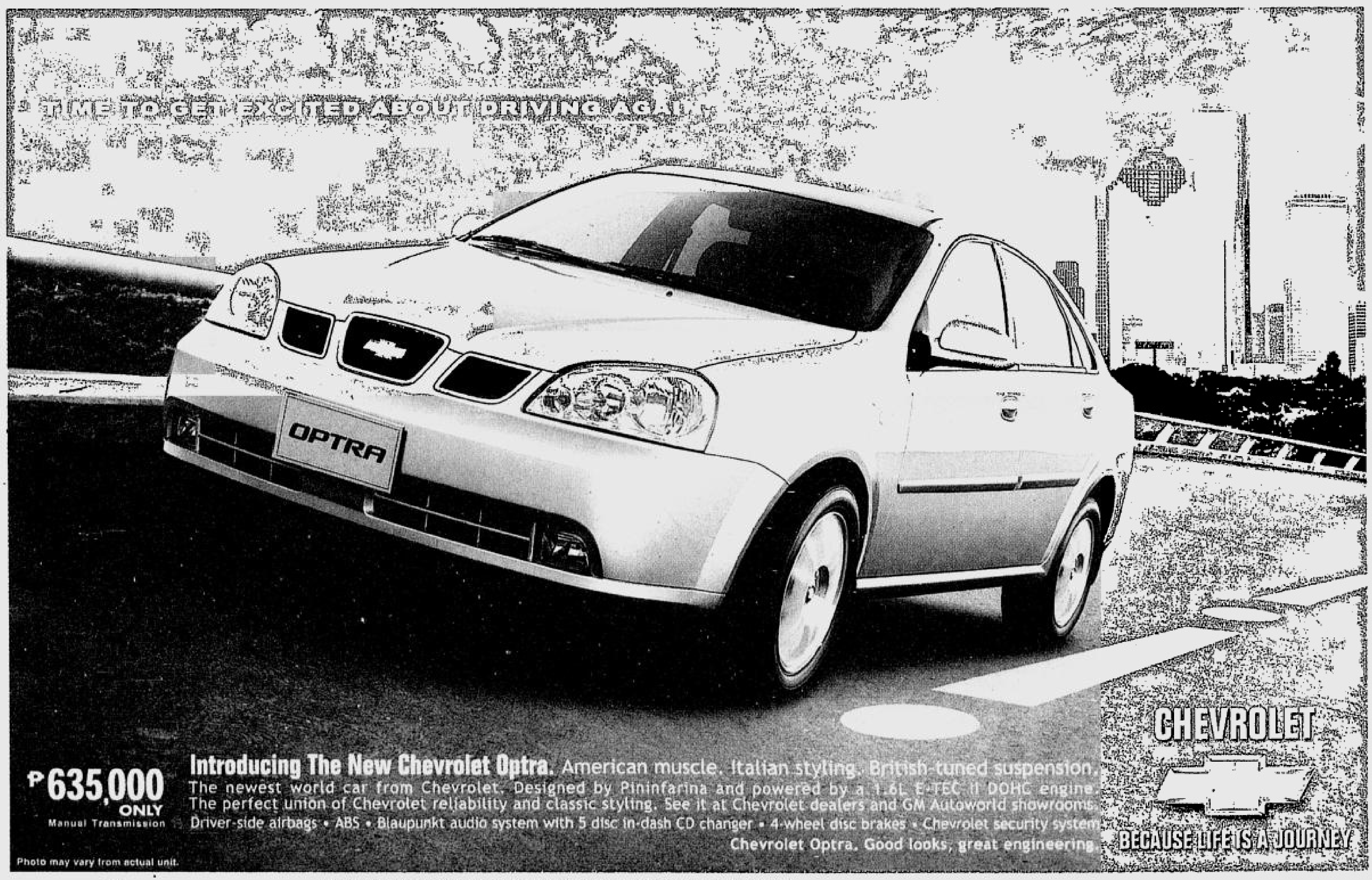
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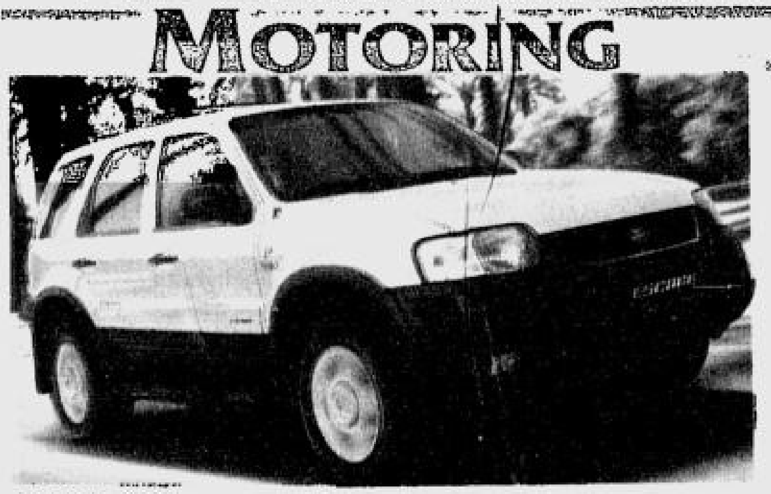
FORD Ranger



FORD Escape

Making the Philippines a major Asean export hub

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

STA. ROSA, Laguna—Ford Motor Co. had pledged to push through with its plan to beef up its exports and make the Philippines a major car exporter in the Southeast Asian region by announcing an additional $50 million investment (over the next several years) into its manufacturing facility here.

Ford chair and CEO Bill Ford, who recently visited the plant, announced that the $50 million investment would include facility upgrade, tooling and engineering costs related to new vehicle programs.

With an increased export capacity, Ford Philippines would clearly make the country the company's major export hub in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) region, second only to Thailand.

Sole exporter

Ford Philippines is currently the sole exporter of completely built-up (CBU) vehicles to its neighboring Asean countries.

Within the framework of the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta), Ford Philippines currently exports the Ford Lynx and Mazda Protégé sedans and the Ford Escape and Mazda Tribute SUVs to Thailand and Indonesia.

The export program was officially launched in March 2002 with the Ford Lynx, which was followed in September 2002, with the Ford Escape.

BILL Ford at the unveiling of new Ford models

Three models

During his visit at the Sta. Rosa plant, the Ford chair also launched Ford Philippines' three new products: the Ford Everest, Ford Lynx RS 2.0L and the Ford Escape 3.0L.

The Ford Everest is the latest 7-seater SUV in its growing family of sports utility vehicles composed of the Explorer, Explorer Sport, Explorer Sport Trac, Expedition, Excursion and Escape.

"We are very excited about the new Everest and we believe that this is what the market has been waiting for: a true vehicle for the Filipino family," said Dave Macasadia, Ford Philippines VP for sales and marketing.

The Ford Lynx RS 2.0L, on the other hand, is the racing series variant of the Ford Lynx that will be introduced by mid-October.

The Lynx RS carries the proud heritage of a high-performance vehicle rooted in motorsports.

Dressed with a new front spoiler, rear spoiler, rear wing, smoked headlamps, fog lamps and side skirts, the Lynx RS is powered by a 2-liter engine with Variable Inertia Charging System, which optimizes airflow into the engine at high rpm.

Best-in-class engine power

The Ford 3.0L Escape is equipped with a Duratec V6 engine beating other compact-sized SUVs with its best-in-class engine power and towing capacity.

It is the only compact SUV that comes with a moon roof and is expected to become available also in October.

"We're extremely pleased to inform everyone that the new Escape is being produced locally at Ford's state-of-the-art production facility," said Ford Philippines president Henry Co.

At the launch ceremony, Ford said the three products represent Ford's commitment to building the best cars and trucks.

Said Co: "Each has a unique personality that caters to the diverse needs and lifestyles of our customers who seek quality, value and individuality in their choice of vehicles."

Ford is the world's second largest automaker, with approximately 335,000 employees in 200 markets on six continents.

Isuzu tech makes superior diesel automatic engines

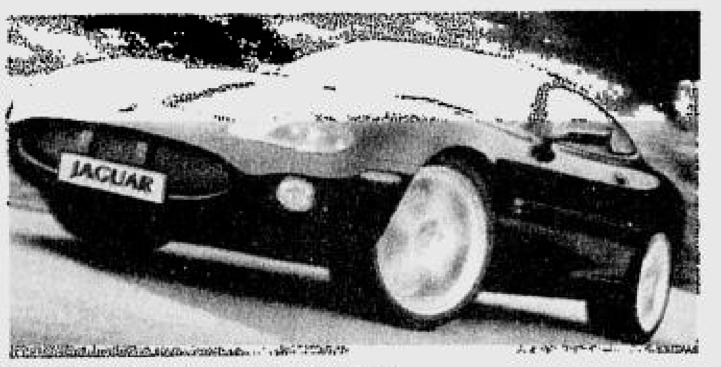
ISUZU, the automotive industry's leading diesel authority, has made huge improvements not only in diesel technology but even in combination with automatic transmissions. Today, its diesel engines combine attributes previously unheard of in the industry: power, fuel efficiency, and clean emissions.

Isuzu's advanced fuel injection system provides much greater control of fuel injection to improve emissions and overall engine performance. With this system, injection pressure and injection rate can be controlled independently of engine speed and load, which is a departure from traditional fuel systems. Isuzu uses an advanced fuel injection technology called the common rail system.

Isuzu is staking its reputation behind diesel automatic variants. Part hydraulic and part electronic, its automatic gearboxes boast meticulously designed torque converters, which are constructed with durable valves, planetary gearsets, friction bands, friction plates, and input and output shafts.

Isuzu has also optimized gear ratios to give its automatic transmissions shifting efficiency and smoothness. In tandem with Isuzu's renowned diesel engines, these automatic gearboxes provide drivers the most pleasant and most comfortable motoring experience.

Today, all three leading diesel vehicles of Isuzu Philippines Corp.—the Fuego, the Crosswind and the Trooper—have automatic transmission models, and they have been widely accepted and praised by those who have had the chance to drive them.

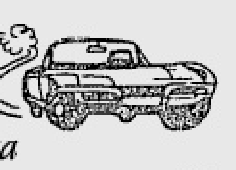


NEW MODELS, NEW PRICES

This is the XKR Coupé that is included in the large displacement models that were previously unavailable due to prohibitively high taxation. Others are the XJR Saloon and S-Type R. For the 2004 model year, Jaguar Cars will make its entire range of vehicles fully available to luxury car buyers in the Philippines. Said Jaguar Cars managing director Amado del Rosario: "At just under P3 million, the AWD 3.0 Sport launches the same price as the old 2.5 version, while the popular 2.0 liters will continue to start at P2.1 million, the same price we have maintained since 2001."

New Lexus in Motor Show; meet the Segway

FULL TANK



Al Mendoza

THE TOYOTA Lexus is determined to make an impact in the ongoing 37th Tokyo Motor Show as Toyota Motor Corp. unveils two Lexus concept cars for public viewing from Oct. 25 to Nov. 5.

The Lexus, in case you still don't know, is Toyota's world premium brand.

By concept cars, we mean car models that have yet to be rolled out from the assembly lines. They are basically complete though, features-wise, but room for alterations is still open up to the day it's ready to be revved up for road use.

* * *

The Lexus was first unraveled in the United States and North America in 1989 with the brand concept of pursuing perfection in product as well as in sales and service. After its initial success, the Lexus went to Europe and other selected regions around the world. Like in the United States, the Lexus also earned critical acclaim elsewhere as a premium car that delivers high satisfaction in response to user values.

Acclaimed comedian Vic Sotto was among the first Filipinos to own a Lexus, which the multi-awarded actor imported from the United States. When Vic first drove his Lexus around the metropolis, it became an instant head-turner. When he brought his Lexus for a game of golf at Capitol Hills, people gawked at it at the parking lot as if they'd just seen a spacecraft that descended from outer space.

Such was the magnetic appeal of the Lexus that soon, many of the nation's wealthy families scrambled to import one from the United States.

* * *

Because it's a concept car, the new Lexus will not be sold until August 2005, the launch date of the new model in Japan together with a nationwide dealership network.

On exhibit in the Toyota Motor Show are the Lexus LF-S, a next-generation sedan that expresses the Lexus brand's new concept of luxury, and the LF-X, an SUV-sports sedan crossover.

The LF-S (Lexus Future-Sedan) is a V8 gasoline engine and high-output motor hybrid system 4WD. A 5-seater, it measures 4,910 mm in length, 1,895 mm in width and 1,345 mm in height. The LF-X (Lexus Future-Crossover) is a sports utility vehicle (SUV), 4.3-liter, V8 gasoline engine and a 4WD. Length: 4,935 mm; width: 1,985 mm; height: 1,645; seats 6.

Vic and his brother, Sen. Tito Sotto, now each regularly drive a BMW. But I will not be surprised if Vic buys a Lexus anew come 2005; he's been smitten by it before and, as the saying goes, love is sweeter the second time around.

* * *

Speaking of the Tokyo Motor Show, a biennial meet that is considered the world's No. 1 affair in terms of showcasing the latest in car models, it will as usual display new models and concept ideas not only from Toyota but also from the other car giants like Honda, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Suzuki, Hyundai, Mazda and Daihatsu from Asia, and the rest of the world's kingpins like GM, Lamborghini, Maserati, Renault, Bentley, Bugatti, Aston Martin and Jaguar.

Of course, also on display are the latest from Saab, Opel, Fiat, Subaru, Audi, Land Rover, VW, Volvo, Ford, Peugeot, BMW, Alpina, Citroen, Mercedes-Benz, Porsche and Rolls-Royce.

On display, too, are the latest motorcycle models from Harley-Davidson, Honda, BMW and Ducati, among others.

Just imagine the combined worth in dollars of all the machines on exhibit in the 37th Tokyo Motor Show in Makuhari, Chiba Prefecture. It could be enough to easily surpass the national budget of the Philippines!

* * *

I have just driven the Segway at Rockwell's spanking Powerplant and what a thrill this new HT (human transporter) has given me. The engineering marvel is beyond my wildest imagination. Boy, how can it be so good, so rider friendly, when it's got only two wheels?

Consider: Its intuitive controls guide the rider's natural motions. It easily navigates most terrains, including paved surfaces, dirt roads, grass and inclines. It is emissions-free as it is powered by rechargeable NiMH battery packs. It goes with an upgraded power-management software, version 12.0.

The science behind the Segway is the BSA (Balance Sensor Assembly). Supplied by Silicon Sensing Systems, the BSA is an elegantly designed, extremely robust, and yet incredibly sensitive piece of equipment.

* * *

I have yet to see a moving machine that can match up to the Segway's incredible features. Suddenly, the scooter becomes a primitive invention from the Jurassic Age.

The Segway's motors are unique in a number of respects. Produced by Pacific Scientific, a division of Danaher, the Segway's motors are the highest-power motors in its class. The motors are brush-less servo technology, meaning there are no contacts to wear, arc, and reduce performance. The magnets are made of an incredibly powerful rare-earth material: neodymium-iron-boron. Each motor is constructed with two independent sets of windings, each driven by a separate board and motor. The motor is carefully balanced to operate up to 8,000 rpm, allowing it to produce very high power levels in a small package.

The Segway's gearbox is constructed more like a precision Swiss watch than a traditional gear drive from an automobile. The unit's engineers were so obsessed with its details that they designed the meshes in the gearbox to produce sound exactly two musical octaves apart—when the Segway moves, it makes music, not noise. Wonder of wonders, the gearbox is preassembled and lubricated, and is designed to require no maintenance over the life of the unit. It has been tested for thousands of miles under severe conditions.

More on the Segway in the future but if only for the record, I own the distinction of being the first journalist to drive the Segway—if that means anything at all. If you want to know its price, call me.

* * *

QUOTE ME. If it's got no class, the product is cheap. But it will wear down easily and so, in the long run, the damaged no-class product is more expensive than the quality product because you will need to buy another one to replace it.

Redefined Nissan Patrol: The power to intimidate

THEY flood the gates of the powers that be—from the Senate, Congress, courts, to the homes of the elite. Celebrities admit owning them. Others just dream of riding them. A luxurious buy for automotive hunters, the Nissan Patrol truly has become a status symbol of sorts.

But what has really endeared this top of the line full wagon to upper-class Filipinos? Perhaps its the looks of refinement, of nobility and of grandeur.

Benchmark of quality

Assembled and distributed by Universal Motors Corp., the redefined Nissan Patrol which was recently introduced to consumers, is a benchmark of luxury guaranteed to swoon admirers and kibitzers alike.

A gaze from the outside, one would see the impressively robust body of the Patrol that speaks both of power and strength. Commanding as ever with its redesigned fascia, bold radiator grille and a new distinctively Nissan emblem, the Patrol also boasts of more aggressive-looking add-ons. Multireflector headlights and taillights that beguile the ordinary eyes; chiseled front bumper with built-in foglamps for the tireless travelers; an aluminum step board for the royal steps of its VIP passengers; stylish side guard molding and 16-inch Bronx II chrome magwheels for that intimidating red carpet arrivals on exclusive occasions.

These are the Patrol's additional beauties to die for. But its devotion to beauty does not end on its exterior alone.

Luxurious interior

Open the doors of this LCV to discover that its cabin is also a bundle of luxury for the privileged passengers. The silver-faced stereo system is made to stir passion for the music lovers and invite soothing sounds while on the road. The stereo system includes an automatic 6-disc changer, twin pillar speakers and 4 side speakers. Its power signal mirrors with red light indicators is a welcome sight to drivers for that increased visibility through the roughest of weather conditions.

The driver's seat can be manually adjusted for optimum lumbar support and an 8-way power adjustment (for A/T models only) while passenger seats provide 4-way power adjustment (A/T models only).

Another enhancement on the redefined Nissan Patrol is the 4-spoke steering wheel with the Nissan brand symbol, complete with power assist, tilt adjustment function and conveniently designed control panel to provide full-driving control.

Still uncompromising when it comes to safety, the Patrol is loaded with a driver-side airbag that reduces risk of injury in the event of a collision. Its body and rigid cabin are designed with the Nissan revolutionary Zone Body Concept—shock-absorbing crushable zones built-in to diffuse the force of a collision.

Undoubtedly, the real deal of the Patrol that provides superior value to its owners is the award-winning engine that comes in its every unit. Its ZD30 Neo Di Turbo Diesel Engine is a revolutionary technology that enhances fuel efficiency while reducing exhaust emission and engine noise.

AUTO EXTREME AUTO BYTES

Starting Oct. 26, Auto Extreme will be telecast every Sunday, 3:30 pm on RPN 9.

Each week, a viewer's question related to cars and motoring gets answered on Auto Extreme. You can get a hard copy every Thursday in this section.

WHAT'S the difference between a full-time 4WD vehicle and a part-time 4WD vehicle? —*Juan Miguel Solidum*

Part-time four-wheel-drive (4WD) systems operate mainly on two-wheel drive (2WD) for everyday pavement use. Usually, this is a rear-wheel-drive vehicle that requires the driver to manually shift between 2WD and 4WD using either a lever or a switch.

When you put the vehicle in 4WD mode, the transfer case locks the front- and rear-driveshafts, allowing power to be distributed evenly. After the transfer case locks the front and rear driveshafts, the front and back wheels will turn at the same speed.

Part-time systems aren't designed to be driven on dry pavement when in 4WD mode; this means they must be engaged only when there is slippage of the tires in order for the proper wheel paths to be followed. On surfaces where little slippage will occur, such us on dry pavement or other high traction surfaces and at low speeds, you'll end up straining the tires, suspension and transmission as your vehicle fights against the friction.

Full-time 4WD provides power to all four wheels, usually with power being shifted between the front and rear axles as needed. The advantages are that the vehicle always provides maximum traction in both dry and slippery conditions. There is no switch to turn it off and requires no action from the driver.

In a full-time 4WD system there will be a center differential in addition to the front and rear differentials. This extra differential allows the front and rear driveshafts to turn independently, allowing the wheels to easily follow the proper paths through turns. The system is ideal for long-distance driving under all road conditions.

Toyota shows 'Ecology and Emotion' at Motor Show

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

TOKYO—As you read this, motoring journalists from all over the world are in Makuhari Messe, Chiba for the the two-day press preview of the 37th Tokyo Motor Show at which about 270 manufacturers of passenger cars, motorcycles and parts from 14 countries are exhibiting on the theme, "The Challenge: Driving toward a Better Future."

Organized by the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, this year's motor show features the automotive industry's response to many pressing issues and challenges, including the environment, the integration of automobiles and information technology, safety and the increasingly diverse needs of today's drivers.

Automotive possibilities

At Makuhari Messe, an executive of Toyota Motor Corp., the world's largest automaker by stock value and the world's third largest when ranked by unit sales, said Toyota views the biennial Tokyo Motor Show as an opportunity to propose new automotive possibilities and unveil a wide variety of concept vehicles and technologies.

This year, Toyota is exhibiting six concept vehicles (eight units), two race cars and 21 production vehicles for a total of 31 under the banner, "Ecology & Emotion." Pursuant to this theme, Toyota vehicles at this year's show offer advanced hybrid technology friendly to the environment and explore exciting new concepts for the motoring world aside from presenting numerous technology exhibits.

First with hybrids

Toyota and Honda Motor Co. were the first automakers to sell hybrid cars, which combine a gasoline engine and electric motors to reduce tailpipe exhaust and fuel consumption. Last March, Toyota forecast sales of 21,000 units for its hybrid compact car Prius in the United States in 2003 compared with 20,119 in 2002 as supplies of the current version dwindled ahead of a transition to the redesigned 2004 model.

The all-new Prius is among the 21 production cars being exhibited by Toyota at this motor show.

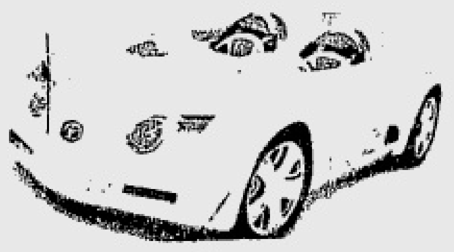
The concept vehicles displayed by Toyota are Fine-N, a "Fuel Cell Innovative Emotion-Next" generation vehicle; CS&S or "Compact Sport & Specialty"; SU-HV1, "Sports Utility-Hybrid Vehicle"; three units of PM, "Personal Mobility with visual communication system"; NSLV, "New Life Support Vehicle" and Crown Concept. The two race cars on show are the Toyota TF 103, which competed in all 16 Formula One races in 2003, Toyota's second year of F1 competition; and "Indy 500 Winner," which was driven by Gil de Ferran of Marlboro Team Penske to win the Indy 500.

Toyota supplied the Indy RV81 engine to five IRL teams and won the 2003 Engine Manufacturer's Title.

Next generation Lexus

Toyota is also exhibiting two Lexus concept cars. Lexus, the luxury brand that Toyota launched in North America in 1989 with the slogan, "The Passionate Pursuit of Perfection" and that now outsells Mercedes-Benz in the premium car market in the United States, has expanded successfully into Europe and will be introduced in Japan in August 2005. Last July, as in previous years, Lexus topped the long-term vehicle quality survey of J.D. Power and Associates, the internationally respected automotive quality and customer satisfaction research outfit.

The LF-S (Lexus Future Sedan), a next-generation 5-seater sedan, embodies Toyota's new conception of luxury with a V8 gasoline engine and high-output motor hybrid system and 4WD (tentative). The LF-X (Lexus Future Crossover X) is a 6-seater crossover of SUV power and sports sedan refinement, expressing the concept for a new generation of Lexus with a 4.3-liter V8 gasoline engine and 4WD. The two Lexus concept cars are realizations of a quest for the essence of luxury in every detail and seek to provide an exhilarating motoring experience while understanding and anticipating each individual's constantly changing needs, a Toyota spokesman said. By the way, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. may launch the Lexus in Manila next year.



COMPACT Sport & Specialty or CS&S

Peugeot Centre opens at Ortigas

AFTER THE SUCCESSFUL launch held at the Fort, Bonifacio Global City in Taguig, Peugeot, one of Europe's most respected and celebrated car manufacturers, further strengthened its presence in the local automotive industry when it recently inaugurated its showroom.

With a turn of the century European carnival as its backdrop, guests and friends of Peugeot were treated to a magical night of merriment and festivities as it highlighted the four outstanding qualities that make a Peugeot—design, reliability, dynamism and innovation.

Ribbon cutting

Welcoming the guests and supporters of Peugeot in the country was Peugeot Ortigas Centre president Annie Tan-Yee. The ribbon-cutting ceremony, officially opening the showroom, was led by Tan-Yee, French Ambassador to the Philippines Madame Renée Veyret, Automobiles Peugeot for Asean countries general director Dominique Monet and Automobiles Peugeot for Southeast Asia Alain Freyermuth along with AutoFrance Philippines Inc. president Valentine Torres and managing director Marjoree Lee.

A spectacular mime performance ushered in the celebration the three car models that Peugeot introduced in the country—the 206, 206cc and the 307—all wonderfully styled and bundled with a bevy of ingenious features for comfort and safety.

Music provided by the string quartet and special song numbers added pizzazz, setting the mood of the European carnival that Peugeot threw for its friends and guests.

Testament

The opening of the Peugeot Ortigas showroom is a testament that Peugeot not only offers top quality cars, but excellent after-sales service and first-rate parts and accessories as well. Peugeot takes pride in its competent and proficient staff to help you with your needs—be it buying your first Peugeot model or assisting you with your car's care and maintenance.

Now open to the public, the showroom serves as the definitive stop for everyone who wants to know more about Peugeot. It is located at 88 ADB Ave. corner Opal Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

New bike makers…

From page C4

(from the current 45 percent) where they will get more parts supplies for their motorcycles.

"Our members support the Motorcycle Development Program of the Board of Investments and in fact, committed ourselves to investing $2 million (P109.14 million) each," according to Alingog.

Alingog also revealed Motormap members are committed to working toward the development of the industry's first Filipino-designed motorcycle.

"Filipinos have a very distinct taste and requirements when it comes to motorcycle and by 2008, we hope to come up with our very own motorcycle brand," Alingog said.

Image buildup

The market still regard China made motorcycles as inferior to its Japanese counterparts, admitted Alingog.

"But a much closer comparison would reveal that there's not much difference as China already made strides in engine technology by teaming up with these Japanese motorcycle makers. Our products are slowly catching up and yet our prices have remained affordable," he said.

He added that their eight members' products are priced 25 percent lower and all comply with the government's Clean Air Act as all members of the Motormap sell only four-strokes.

Nationwide network

"We are now forming a nationwide dealership and after-sales network that all our eight members can benefit from, meaning as long as the dealership is Motormap-affiliated, owners of motorcycle brands the group carries can avail of services there," explained Alingog.

"Spare parts are not a problem since our brands also share the same with those of most Japanese brands," he added.

Indeed, with Motormap making its presence felt, the motorcycle industry will now have one more voice that will push for the eventual development of technological skills in assembling, servicing and manufacturing motorcycles.

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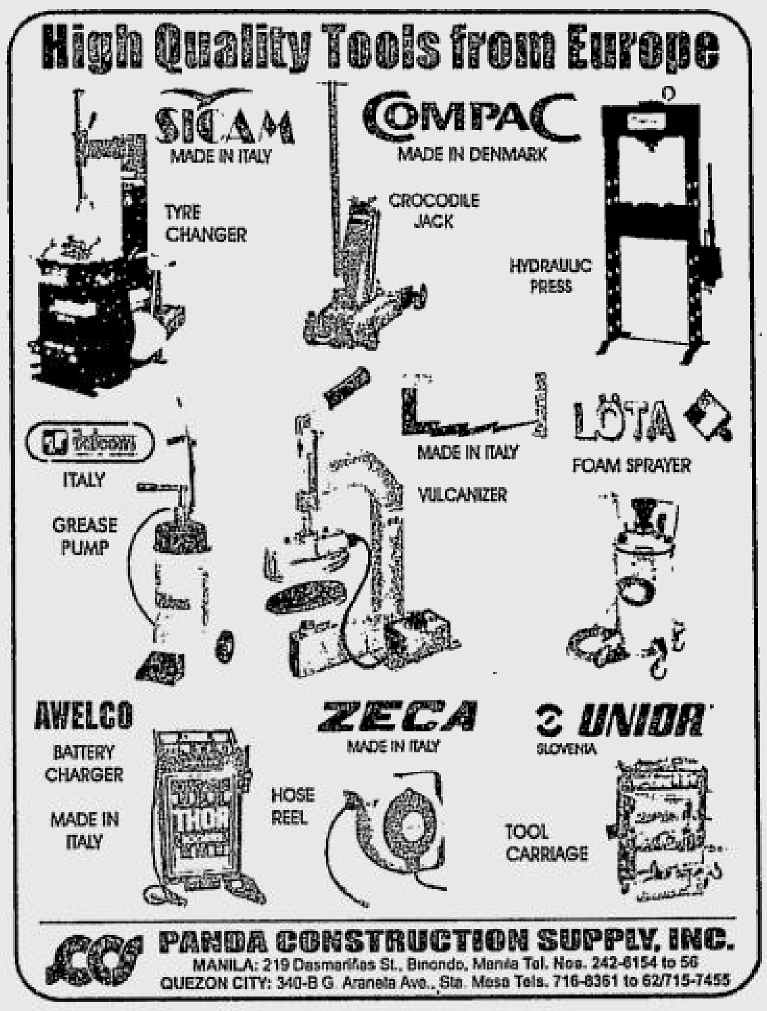

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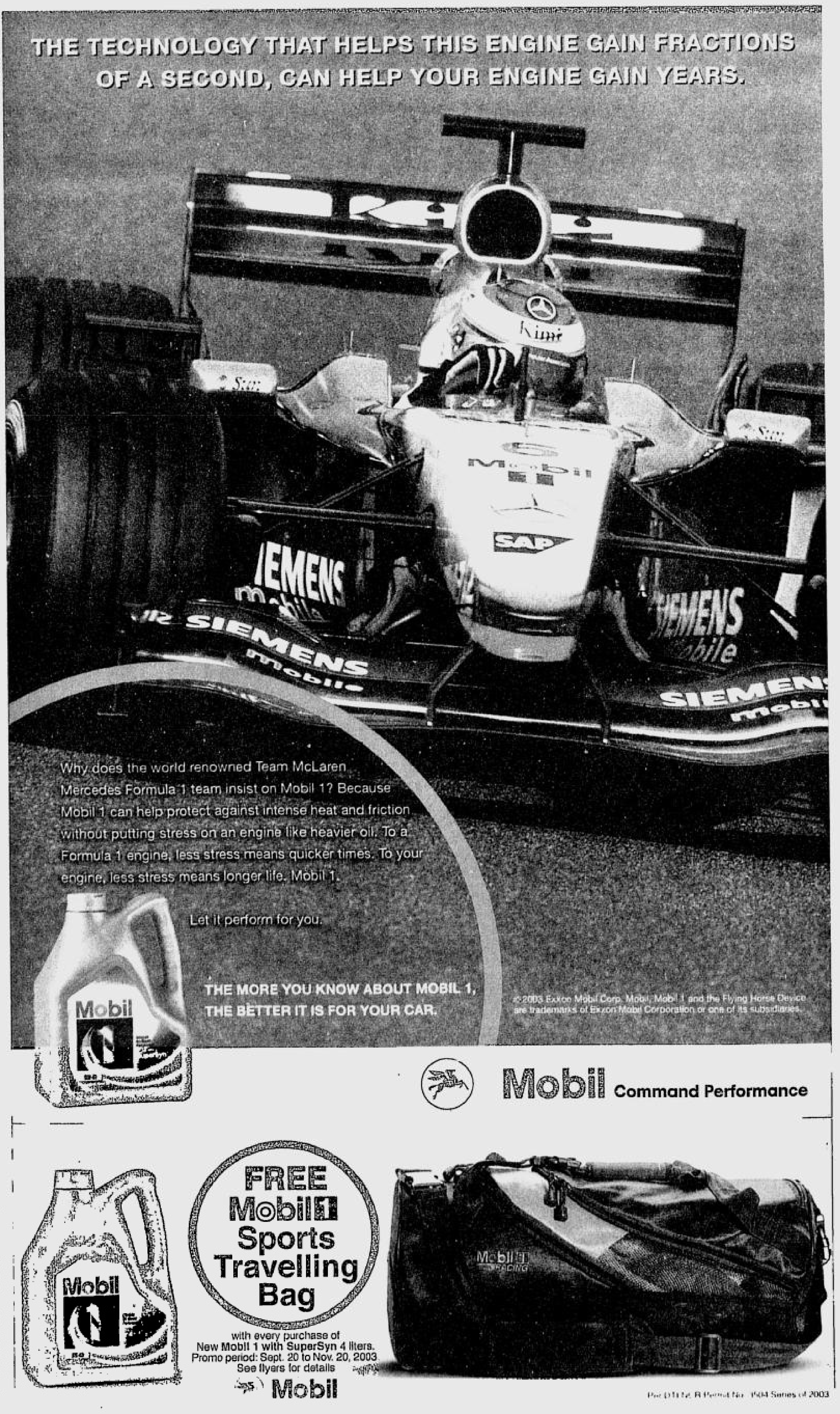

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New bike makers promise industry growth

By Charles E. Buban

NEW players, one unifying goal: get their acts together and help in the local motorcycle industry growth.

Eight bike manufacturers formed the group Motorcycle Manufacturers' Association of the Philippines (Motormap) early this month and one of their first tasks is to do a sort of image makeover.

"For years, we've been regarded as minor players whose contribution to the country's economy is inconsequential," said Giovanni Alingog, spokesperson and one of the founders of Motormap. "We realized that... to make a bigger mark in the industry, we need to pool our resources together."

8 manufacturers

Although Motormap is composed of eight manufacturers—Ever Automotive, Francisco Motors (Daye brand), Golding Motors, Jieda Motors, Nitos Motors (Skygo brand), Sinski Motors, Veloci Motors and Victoria Motors (Grandstar brand)—their combined sales and production takes up only 30 percent of the market pie at the moment.

"We're not yet there but since we are 100 percent Filipino-owned companies, we can chart our own course and with a more varied product lineup—motorcycles for tricycle use, cruiser type, moped and scooters—we can cater to a wider market," said Alingog.

In fact, Motormap is planning to produce and sell one million motorcycles annually by 2008.

The group is currently churning up 240,000 units," Alingog reported.

Sourced from China

Currently, Motormap members source most of their motorcycle parts from China.

"These parts are of same quality as the one used by a number of our Japanese counterparts since they, too, get their parts in China to take advantage of a much lower price," explained Alingog.

But for Motormap, Alingog revealed that they intend to develop the local businesses

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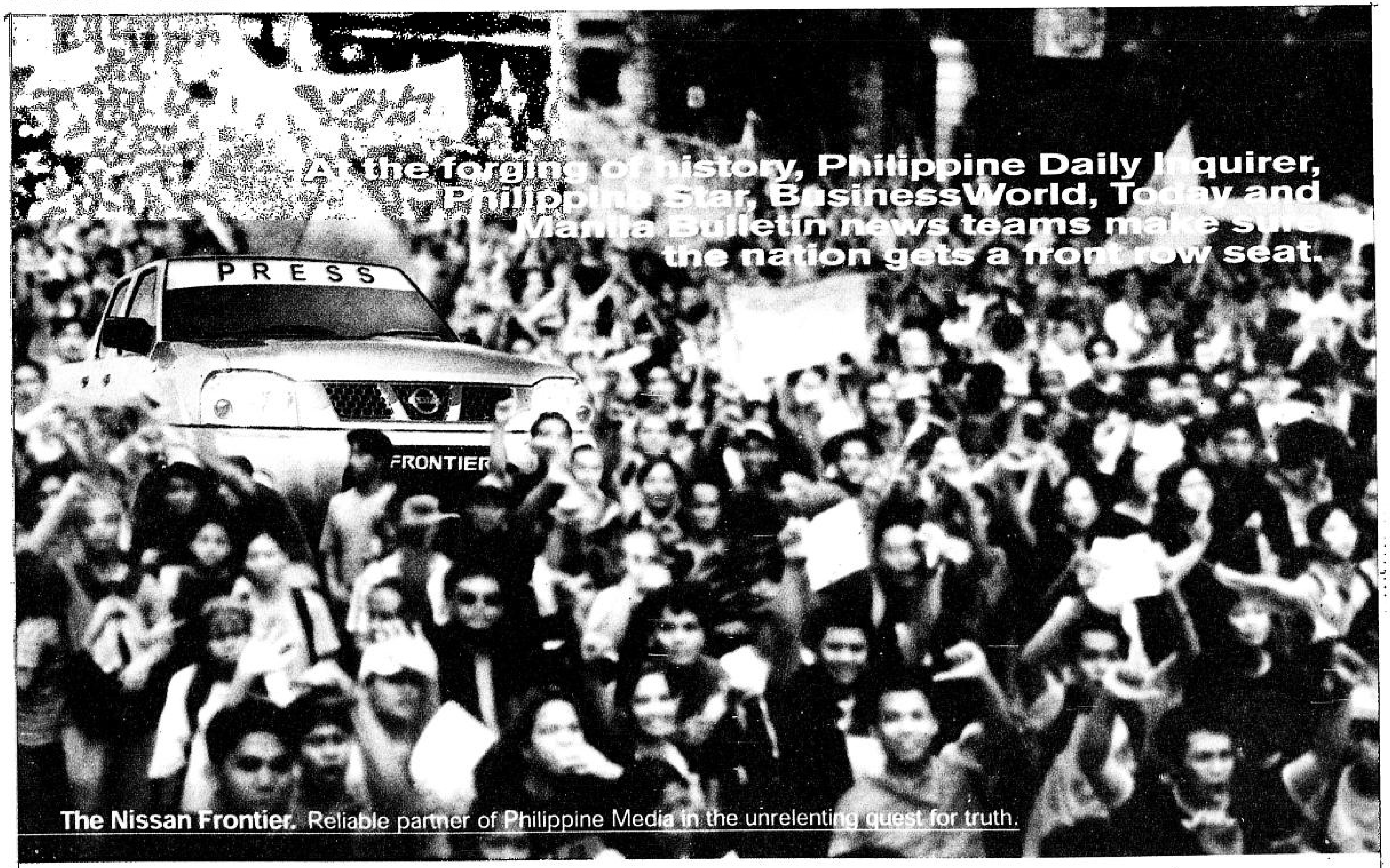
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Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

'Raw speed' Lynx blazes red at BRC

By Tessa R. Salazar

PUT a bigger engine inside a compact sedan, and then spruce up the looks. What do you get? Howling "oohs and aahs," you bet.

Motoring journalists converged once more (for the umpteenth time this year, we guess) at the Batangas Racing Circuit on a rainy Friday, licking their chops for a run with Ford's new "toy for the big boy" RS Lynx.

Accompanied by racing instructors from the Tuason Racing School and Ford Motors Philippines' own racing aficionados, seven motoring journalists turned the BRC into a wet playground for a day, testing the sporty sedan RS Lynx's 2.0-liter engine, pushing the sleek cat to its limits.

The engine, by all means, not just meowed. It roared, at 142 ps and 192 NM of torque. All that potential strength of a 2-liter engine is contained in the old 1.6-liter Lynx platform.

Aggressive, sporty look

To complement that power is that aggressive, sporty look. Before flooring the pedal, we noticed the RS Lynx sported a three-spoke steering wheel, a hip white instrument panel meter background, and aluminum sport pedals that would make speed aficionados purr in contentment, but would make Sunday drivers a tad bit uncomfortable.

Compared to the old "minimalist-looking" Lynx hardly any owner dressed up, the RS is outright the best-looking Lynx Ford has released into the wild. New front spoiler, side skirts, rear spoiler, rear wing, smoked headlamps, fog lamps and side skirts make it clear who this car is for. There's even the electric slide and tilt "moonroof" and lightweight 16" alloy wheels and sport tires to complete the look.

JP TUASON

The specs sheet indicated the RS Lynx is equipped with a Variable Interia Charging System, optimizing airflow into the engine at high RPMs to produce responsive acceleration and improved drivability.

After poring through all that boring paperwork, it was time to put the new Lynx through its paces. As if Mother Nature was interested as well, the rains made the BRC test drive even more interesting and tricky.

Series of tests

Each participant was first instructed to conduct a brake test, to demonstrate the RS' antilock brake system and to test the stability of the car's structure in extreme braking situations.

And this wasn't your old "backing-out-of-your-garage brake test." We slammed on the brakes at 80 kph on three test runs. Each time the RS' ABS worked consistently—with the car stopping but still maneuverable. The braking distances ranged between 20 and 23 meters. Not bad if you were running that fast on Balete Drive and a white lady suddenly appeared 30 meters in front. Only then would you see a ghost smile gratefully—up close and personal.

Then there was the "pylon test," where the handling was tested. Of course, we were to follow the right curving and "apex" maneuvers. It would've been no use if we ran all over the pylons because of incorrect steering techniques—RS or no RS. Needless to say, the slippery tracks made these pylon tests even trickier. We heard circuit organizers earlier planned to use human pylons, but all of them reported sick for the day (joke-joke-joke!).

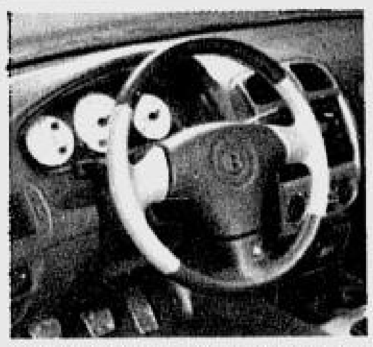
In all of these tests, we couldn't ignore the power inside the RS. Drivers who have grown familiar with the 1.6 Lynx only need to get used to the added power, as even the handling seems to have been improved. Ford engineers and designers have been able to retain the cat-quick handling in corners, possibly because the engine has been evenly matched with the fully independent trapezoidal suspension design (used in rally tracks around the world). Others put it right in the vernacular: *"Mas matapang ang makina, pero mas mabait tumakbo"* (A more aggressive engine in a more sensitive ride, or something like that).

To make the test runs a bit more competitive, a mini race of sorts divided 12 participants into pairs for a head-to-head race. We were asked to gun the engine on a straightaway, then turn tight on a corner and then drive straight to the finish, the tests here being the acceleration and cornering abilities of the RS.

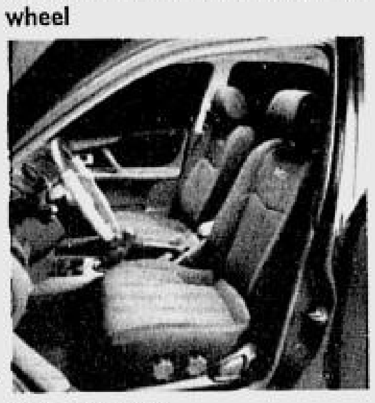
Ford officials have revealed the RS Lynx will be coming out only in manual transmission, focusing its market more on drivers "who go their own gears."

Luxurious to sporty

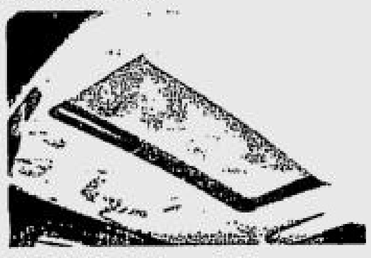
The RS' fog lamps and moonroof can also be found in the Lynx Ghia 1.6. Generally, some luxury items of the old Lynx have been passed on to the RS, only that the RS makes these luxuries feel more like sporty additions.



AIRBAG-EQUIPPED RS steering wheel



BUCKET seats



ELECTRIC slide and tilt moonroof

Though the Lynx body and platform have been retained for the RS, some components have been replaced, for sure. Some suspension parts, for example, are bigger, to handle the heavier engine block and cornering forces applied on the vehicle.

Eric Malimban, Ford product planning specialist, says the curb weight of the RS Lynx is heavier by 67 kg than a Lynx Ghia M/T. An RS Lynx weighs 1,235 kg.

The front stabilizer for the RS has been increased by 2 mm to 22 mm, helping make the suspension parts more rigid. This decreases the "flexing" of the tires.

Another part of the suspension called the rear spindle has increased by 6 mm. From 1.6 Ghia's 30 mm, it is now 36 mm in the RS.

The Ghia's steering wheel, in contrast to RS' three, has four spokes. The RS also has an interior of black and red, while the Ghia's is leather wrapped in beige.

The RS runs on 16-inch tires and a thinner 50 series for a firmer ride. Measuring 15 inches, the Ghia's tires are of the 55 series.

The RS Lynx is assembled in Ford's plant here in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

"The RS Lynx is just like a lightweight athlete that got additional muscles, so it exudes more power than bigger athletes," says Malimban.

More comparisons

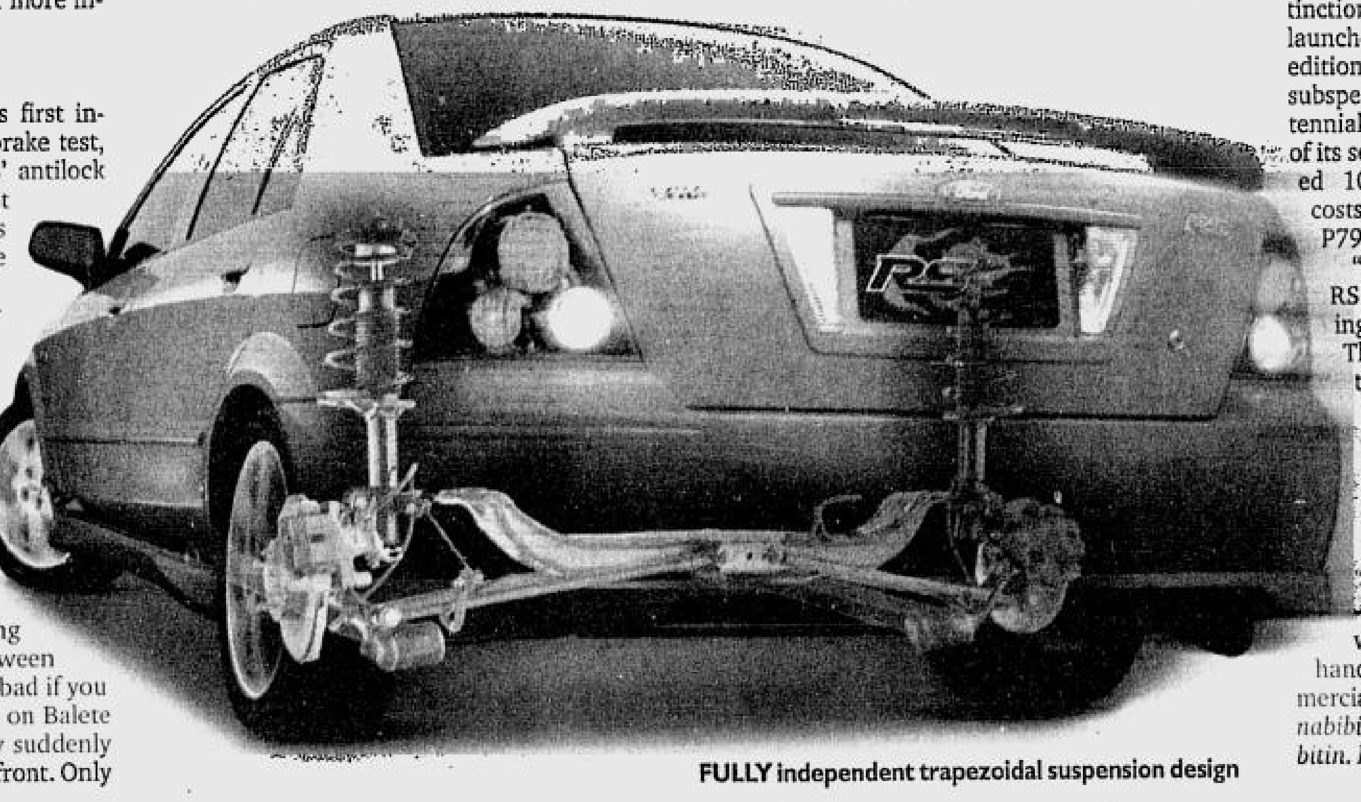
The 2-liter RS and the 1.6-liter Lynx have strut suspension in front and trapezoidal link strut bars at the back. The difference is that the RS Lynx uses larger diameters in the rods and the tubes.

The Ghia and the RS Lynx have antilock brake systems. Both, likewise, have Electronic Brake Distribution.

For those who want more distinction, Ford Philippines has launched 100 units of its limited edition RS Lynx. This black RS subspecies wears the Ford centennial badge, and the highlight of its seats is silver. The RS Limited 100th anniversary edition costs P808,000. The RS Lynx is P795,000.

"The new Ford Lynx 2.0L RS is our answer to the growing racing enthusiast market. This new vehicle has everything motorsports fans want in a sports car as the RS will make every driver feel like a pro," says Dave Macasadia, vice president for sales and marketing, Ford Group Philippines.

So who would be happy with the new Lynx? Those who want speed, and can handle it. As one liquor commercial puts it, *"Ayoko ng nabibitin, kaya dito, hindi ako bitin. Ngiyaw!"*



FULLY independent trapezoidal suspension design

A 'love affair' Filipinos have with a 4 wheel drive CR-V

By Tessa R. Salazar

IT'S back, after insistent public demand.

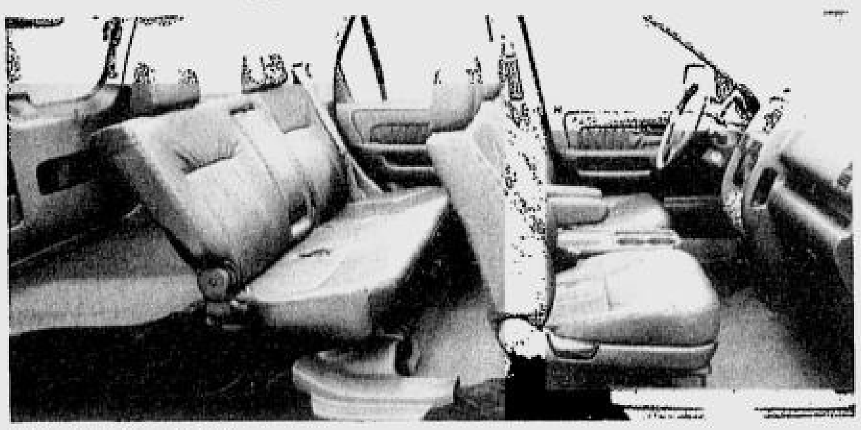
Honda Cars Philippines Inc. says it never runs out of request for the old four-wheel-drive version of the CR-V since the variant bowed out of the market last year. Even buyers of secondhand 4WD CR-Vs were having a hard time finding the coveted vehicle, as original owners simply didn't want to sell their old 4WD CR-Vs.

Based on HCPI research, most buyers of the first-generation Realtime 4WD CR-V didn't sell their old CR-Vs but handed them down to children or siblings. The car-like driveability that was sporty, rugged and versatile was simply too good to sell to strangers.

4x4 version

Bolstering the decision to revive the 4WD CR-V was the result of a study made by Honda Japan on the Philippine auto market showing that the majority of sedan owners who were interested in buying a CR-V and those who already own old 4WD CR-Vs wanted to own the 4x4 version of the CR-V.

Honda was especially keen on sedan owners who showed interest in buying an SUV for their second vehicle. This has influenced Honda's decision to release the second generation Realtime 4WD CR-V—which HCPI claims as their most comfortable 4x4.



INTUITIVE comfort

Honda's enhanced real-time 4-wheel-drive dual-pump system has been put in the new CR-V body. The new CR-V's 2-liter DOHC (double overhead camshaft) i-VTEC (intelligent variable valve timing and lift electronic control system engine) is touted as compact, lightweight and quiet.

VTEC electronically switches valve timing and valve lift to match high-, mid- and low-speed ranges while also providing continuous phase control of the intake valve according to engine load rotation. Expect ample power and torque as it produces cleaner emissions and high fuel efficiency.

Standard fittings

The new CR-V is fitted with body color bumpers, side protector moldings, door mirrors and has a sporty body color spare tire cover. Other standard fittings include fog lamps and a third brake light. The CR-V 4x4 has a new exclusive alloy wheel design.

Fine touches include leather seats, metallic highlights on panels and door switches. The new Pioneer CD/cassette receiver with motorized face and variable color display proves a perfect match to the interiors.

Four-wheel disc brakes with ABS are standard, as with the electronic brake force distribution with brake assist for good balance in sudden stops. Seatbelts are pretensioned and are supplemented with dual SRS front airbags.

Popular vehicle

Mitsunari Takano said in a CRV 4x4 press conference that since its introduction in 1995, the CR-V has become a popular vehicle worldwide. He added that the success of the CR-V, which created its own niche market, has set the benchmark for passenger comfort and sporty performance.

Honda regards the CR-V as its third global model along with the Civic and the Accord models. In the Philippines, more than 27,800 units have been sold.

The 2-liter M/T is priced at P1,168,000, while the A/T costs P1,218,000. Add P15,000 if you want the pearl white mica variant.

Now you don't have to harass Don Serapio to sell his beloved 4WD CR-V, Honda's 19 dealers are ready to take in your orders in realtime.

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At the heart of the new 4x4 CR-V is the Realtime 4WD system that automatically engages front and rear wheels in demanding conditions for responsive handling and maximum traction, all the while providing smooth, car-like driveability.

Photo may vary from actual unit.

The new Honda CR-V 4x4.

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

PASEO Uno's chafing dishes are smaller than usual and are often refilled straight from the kitchen.

All bases loaded

By Alexandra Mercado
Contributor

REVIEW

PASEO Uno, the former Brasserie of Mandarin Hotel, opened its doors a few months ago. The name does not give customers the slightest hint of what to expect, and sounds more like a Megaworld housing project, but from the look of the buffet crowd in the restaurant on a weeknight, it looks like a winner.

It seems the people who conceptualized the place set out to do the opposite of everything their competitors have done.

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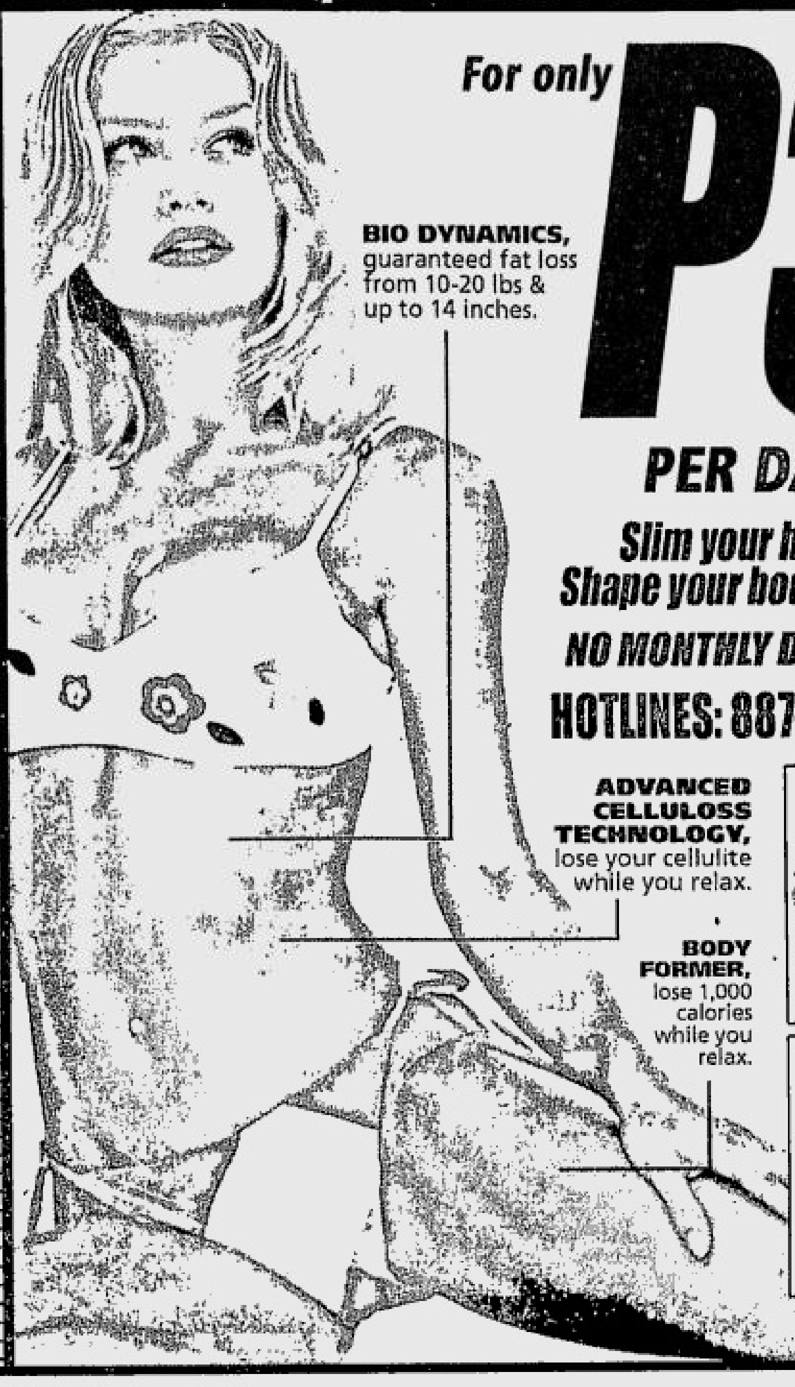

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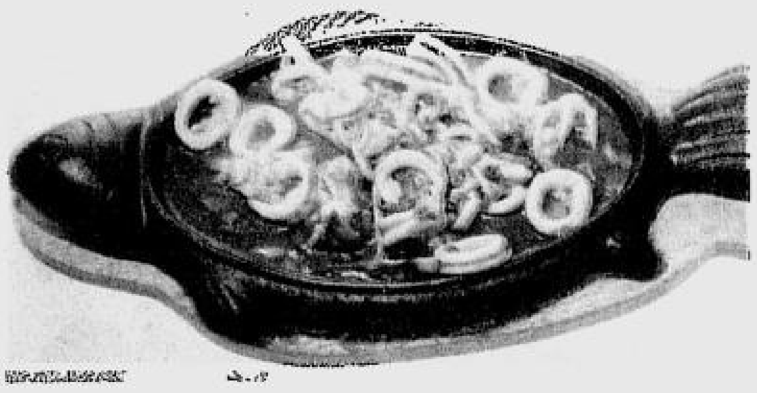
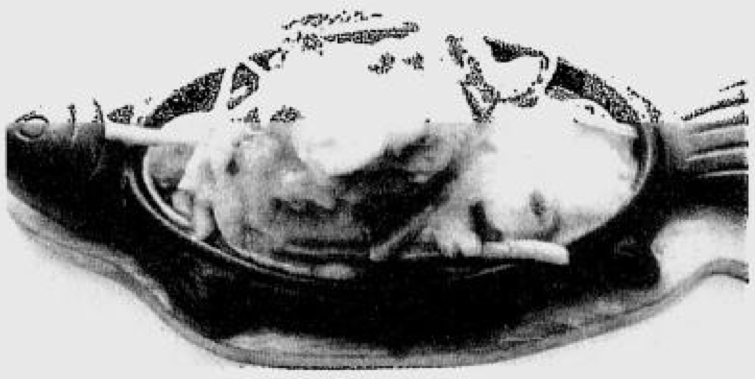
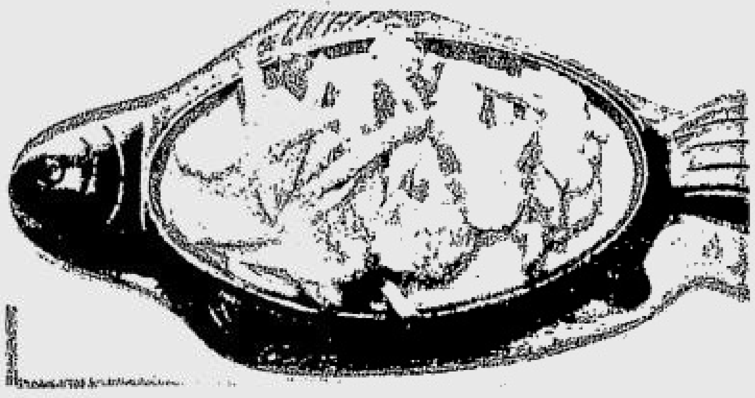


SIZZLING Pusit



BATANGAS Bulalo Steak

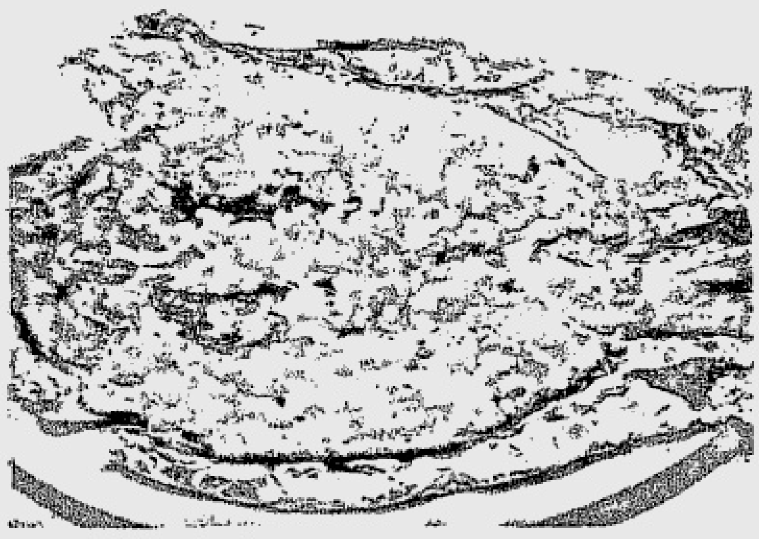


SIZZLING Spareribs

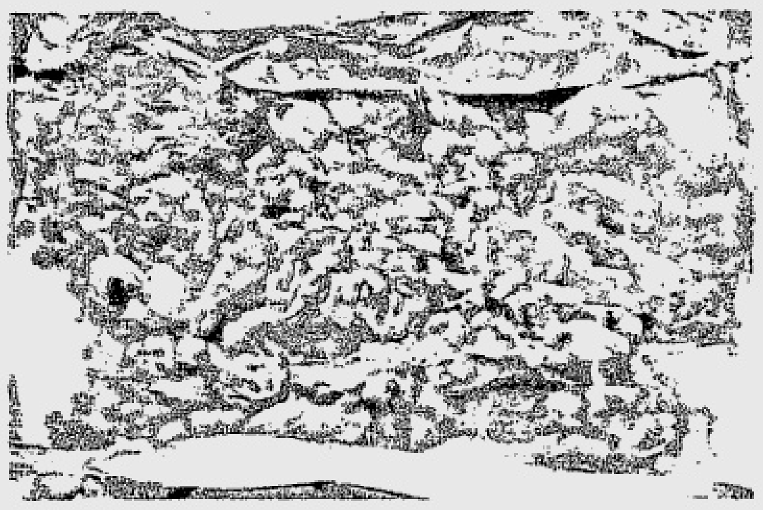
The secret
is in the sauce
at this Mandaluyong
stop for affordable,
fire-cooked food

The grilling circle

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Randy Hormillosa



DAGUPAN Boneless Bangus



GRILLED Talaba

THE APPEAL of fire-cooked foods is timeless, sending restaurant patrons in search of just about anything on the menu that says "barbecue" or "grill-cooked."

Grilling is unmatched for its versatility. A full range of protein products are flattered by smoke and fire, with tougher cuts slowly cooking to tender submission and lean, tender selections quickly finding perfection.

At Circle Garden Grill (tel. 5312355), almost all meat and poultry types are grill candidates. Beef, pork and chicken are prime choices. Seafood is equally amenable, especially tuna, bangus and tanigue. Shellfish, too, does well on the grill, with shrimps, scallops and lobsters as the leading contenders.

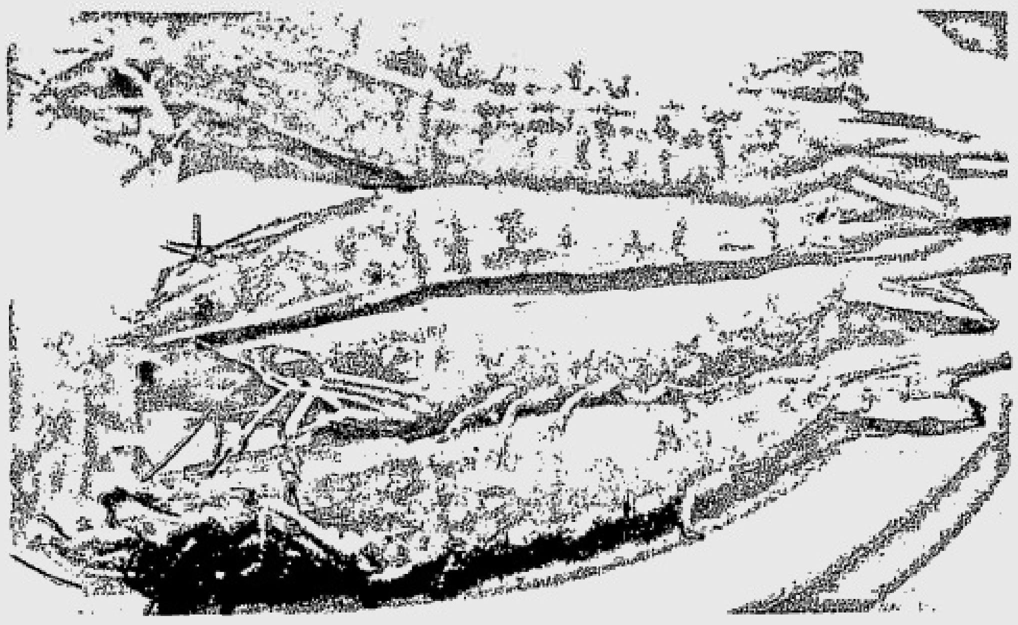
"Food takes on a completely different character when cooked over wood or coals. Grilling imparts an earthy, smoky flavor that can't be reproduced by any other cooking method. And you don't need a culinary school degree or high-tech gadgets to create a flavorful grilled meal," says Edward Diamonon, vice president of J La Group of Companies, which owns and manages Circle Garden Grill.

Aside from the wonderful flavors cooking on a hot grate offers, it is an excellent, low-fat method for a variety of healthful foods—from seafood, pork and chicken to vegetables and even fruits.

"Grilled food is good for the heart because there's less cholesterol in such items," Diamonon says.

Integral parts

Marinades, sauces and rubs are integral parts of a successfully grilled food, Diamonon says.



BULIK

Sauce is a condiment to dress the meat before serving, or to be served on the side, he adds. "A good sauce seals the deal, defining a restaurant and bringing its unique character to vivid life."

Grilled fare comes out best if it is done regularly on a sufficient scale and watched over with care. "The secret of grilled items," he says, "is having a good cook, good meat and good sauce."

Circle Garden Grill employs a kitchen staff of seven, who come mostly from Cebu, which is famous for "*sinugba*," a Cebuano term for grilled food.

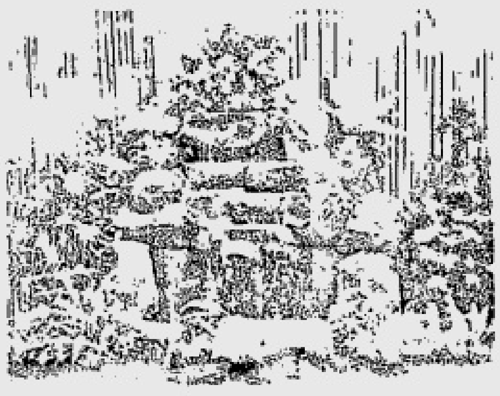
The restaurant's meat comes from Batangas; tuna, General Santos City; bangus, Dagupan; and shrimps and squids, Bacolod.

Affordable

Located at 65 Maysilo St., Plainview, Mandaluyong, the 200-seater Circle Garden Grill is open daily from 10 a.m.-midnight.

"There is no restaurant of this kind in this area that serves such good food which is very affordable," Diamonon says.

The diner offers value meals such as two sticks of pork barbecue for P25; chicken wings and pork barbecue, P39; chicken leg, P49; and 1/2 Dagupan boneless bangus, P59.



CIRCLE Garden Frills patio, designed by Edward Diamonon, features a small waterfall.

The 600-sq m Circle Garden Grill's walls in terra cotta and green lend a rustic appeal. Its patio, which is enclosed in bamboo, features a small waterfall and capiz lamps with colorful lights liven up the place at night.

"We get a broad range of customers. Families enjoy the place on weekends. We get office employees at lunch and dinner sitting next to construction workers. It's a good mix of people," Diamonon says.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Green grocer down by the schoolyard

Fresh organic veggies are sold every Tuesday and Thursday at OB Montessori

Text and photos by Eufemia C. Estrada

ROUND eggplants at P45 a kilo. One buyer will cook her purchase in *gata*.

FRESH *buko* goes for P12 each. On the left is *talbos ng sitaw.*

FOR SALE
Farm Products
OB MONTESSORI FARM
ALFONSO CAVITE & LAS PIÑAS

JUST a small table left of the entrance to the school is laden with fresh, organic vegetables

TWICE a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, fresh organic vegetables at competitive prices are available at the OB Montessori Center on Eisenhower St., Greenhills.

The produce are from OB Montessori Alfonso Farm and Campsite in Barangay Sulsugin, Alfonso, Cavite. The rest are from the smaller Las Piñas OB Montessori Farm which also has an outlet at the Las Piñas branch of the school. They are harvested at dawn twice a week, transported to Manila and sold just a few hours later.

The vegetables are chemical-free. Bio-liquid fertilizer made from rotting vegetables and compost are used instead. These natural fertilizers are also available at the store for interested gardeners.

Best buys

The best time to purchase your vegetables is midmorning, as soon as the day's delivery arrives and the vegetables are set up at the left side of the school's front door.

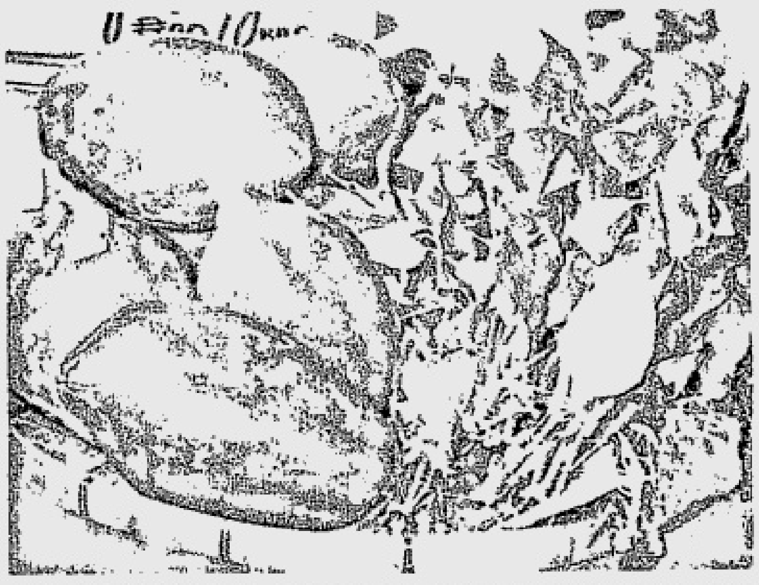
Not only do you get farm fresh vegetables, you can buy in retail which is another boon for small families who need only small quantities. Most supermarkets usually sell their vegetables in packs and sometimes even the smallest pack is too much for a family of two.

A day's delivery may vary from 15 to 30 varieties out of a possible 49, so buyers can decide on the day's menu depending on what's available for the day.

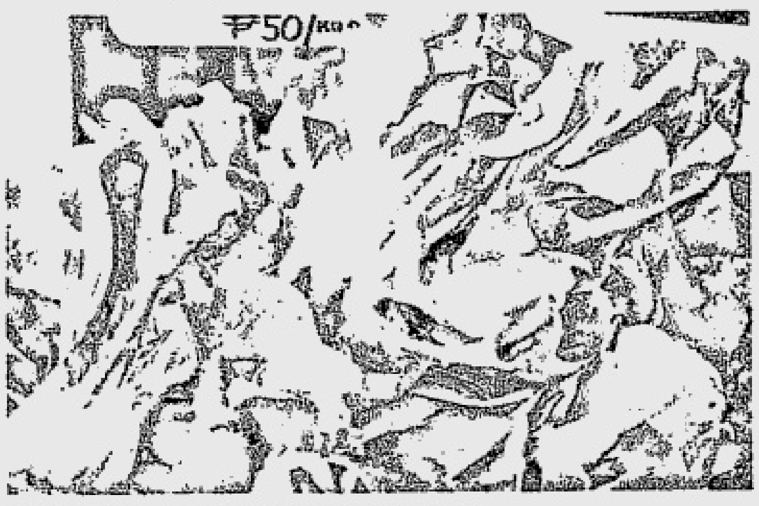
There are everyday vegetables in P5 bundles—Chinese *kangkong*, squash, *sitaw*, *camote*, *sili* tops, *pandan* leaves and lemon grass (*tanglad*). Other vegetables sell by the kilo—banana heart (P10), bell pepper (P50), broccoli flowers (P120), cabbage (P20), carrots (P25), celery (P50), garden peas (P65), leeks (P70), lettuce (P100), *pachoi* (P60), parsley (P75), sweet corn (P40), baby corn (90), tomatoes (40) and even the lowly but highly nutritious *talinum* (P40).

Since it started in 2001 when the stocks ran out by early afternoon, the "store" has grown and is now open till 7 p.m. Wilting leaves are removed from unsold veggies for sale on the following day, Wednesday or Friday.

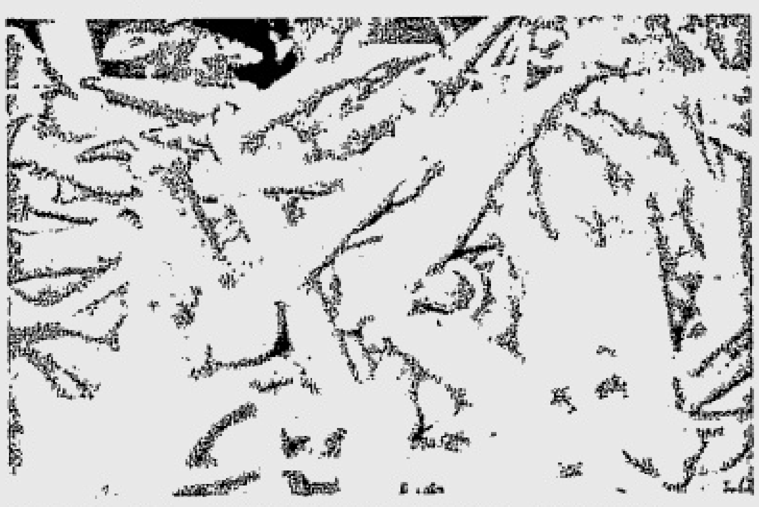
According to OB Montessori officials, more vegetables, in more varieties will be made available as the farm goes into high gear.



THE MAKING of *tinola*—green papaya and *talbos ng sili*. As one buyer remarked, now, all you need is chicken.



ORGANIC *pechay* bundles sold at P50 a kilo



OKRA, that slimy but very nutritious vegetable, at P25 a kilo

All bases loaded

A cross between an ultra-hip NY nightclub and a Zen spa, Paseo Uno at the Mandarin offers a staggering range of buffet dishes

From page E1

Other Makati hotel coffee shops are brightly lit affairs with pastel upholstered-rattan chairs strewn over a split level patio—basically, rooms designed for big cheery families to pig out in. In contrast, Paseo Uno is a dimly lit maze of cozy corners and corridors. It is bound on one side by a long pond that is carried over outside the glass wall, enlarging the room and giving diners that "outdoors" feel.

The tones are heavy and solemn, courtesy of the natural stained wooden furniture and gray stone walls. Gothic looking cabinets on one side conjure images of cathedrals but I believe the Paseo Uno mood is best likened to a cross between an ultra-hip New York nightclub and a Zen spa. For those who, like me, consider eating as a relaxing and a social experience, the novel combination of moods actually makes sense.

Full range

There is nothing monastic or minimalist about the buffet offerings, however. Paseo Uno made sure to cover all the bases in order to attract Manila's fickle diners and cater to the Mandarin's spectrum of foreign guests. The appetizer buffet exemplified the machine gun approach. Traditional favorites, such as a full range of sushi from California maki to the little tamago-topped rolls, were decked out and constantly restocked.

I must make special mention of the salmon sashimi. My friends and I noted that it was very fresh—as in zero *lansa* factor—so we focused mostly on that. Circling the sushi arrangement was another crowd drawer—fresh oysters in the half shell. These babies were big and sweet and the stuff that late night cravings are made of.

Aside from the standard salad offerings (pre-tossed Caesar and separate bowls of raw ingredients for a custom salad) I noticed two items that are not on the usual appetizer line up at hotel buffets. All the condiments to make a little Mezze platter (wedges of *pita*, *hummus* and *taboulleh* and olives) were laid out for the healthy eaters, and a mini-carvery that featured (along with smoked salmon) smoked tuna with dill sauce. This last dish had the exact look, color and texture of beef jerky and it did cause my tongue to initially recoil due to the strong smoky taste. But after sucking on it for awhile, I found that, when chased by a sip of good red wine, this little treat was enough to make the meal for me. Seriously.

The main course station was the usual United Nations of hot dishes you find in a buffet—Pacific cod in teriyaki sauce, Chinese beef and broccoli in oyster sauce, beef braised in red wine and *lengua*.

After loading up on appetizers, I am usually much more choosy at the entrée table so I only went for the cod, a smidgen of beef and a sliver of *lengua*. I was pleased to note that although it was nearly 10 p.m., all three dishes had not dried out yet under the heating lamps and were still flavorful and tender. I think it was because Paseo's chafing dishes were smaller than usual, so the dishes are constantly refilled straight from the kitchen.

Made to order

As is the trend at buffets, Paseo Uno also offered "made to order" stations for the a la carte feel. There was a tempura station where they actually had extra prawn tempuras waiting for people to pick them up (usually only the carrots and okras are allowed to be in excess) and a small *shabu shabu/mami* station where one could get noodle soup made with their toppings of choice.

NOVEL combinations of moods and cuisine for the best hotel buffet this side of dining.

I gravitated to the grill station where you could ask for anything from lamb chops to prawns to whole squids and ears of corn grilled over charcoal just for you. The lamb was fabulous and it was cut pretty small so you wouldn't have to commit your whole plate to it if you just wanted a few bites. Oh, by the way, an added homey touch—an actual wood burning oven where you get your bread toasty hot. No hotel will be able to trot out a toaster oven at the bread station after that!

Sweet stop

The dessert station is the first station you see when you enter the restaurant. Even if this is out of sequence, it does do the trick in enticing those would-be a la carters to take the buffet instead (if that doesn't do the trick, the waiter's warning that a la carte food takes "very long" certainly does give one pause).

There are two things that I thought were absolutely fantastic about this dessert station.

First, rather than letting guests hack away at the cakes in whatever fashion they choose, the little assistant patisseries in attendance (the crests on their jackets suggested they were interning from different cooking schools in the country) took the trouble of plating tiny slices of the cake in pretty little dishes. Each slice of truffle cake or mocha torte came with tiny meringues or wafer sticks on the side or individual sprigs of mint—a mini tableau of sorts that offered diners a variety of tastes and textures in a very manageable dose.

The second thing I appreciated: Made-to-order crepes. Noticing that most people were ordering the pale pancake type things stuffed with mango and drizzled with chocolate sauce, I decided to test the trainee manning the crepe station by ordering a crispy crepe with nothing but butter and sugar. She didn't even flinch. With two wide-eyed interns watching, the crepe girl split open little sachets of butter and brown sugar taken straight from a nearby table top and made me a crepe very nearly (but not quite) like the ones on the streets of Paris.

It would be very difficult for a person, no matter how ravenous, to sample every dish in this wide offering. But perhaps that is the point. Knowing you missed out on some key items may just be the draw to get serious eaters to return again and again. After all, with times as they are, we all need something to look forward to and Paseo Uno in the heart of the CBD certainly offers something for everyone.

QUICK GUIDE TO PASEO UNO

Cuisine: International
Suitable for: Socializing with other couples or friends, celebrating a birthday in the family
Service: Average
Cost: PPPP (out of five)
Location: Lobby, Mandarin Oriental, Paseo de Roxas, Makati CBD
Overall Zarap Rating: ZZZZZ! (out of five)

Catering seminar

CATERERS, restaurateurs who are planning to start a catering business are invited by ProActive Center for Training (PACT) to its Managing a Catering Business seminar-workshop on Oct. 29-Nov. 7, 1-5 p.m., at Ipanema Bar and Restaurant, Level 2, Eastwood City Walk, Eastwood City, Libis, QC.

Only 20 participants will be accepted. Seminar fee is P4,500 per participant inclusive of food, workshop materials and equipment.

The eight-day training will feature lectures and hands-on workshops on legal requirements; planning the menu, equipment and staffing; cost control; room arrangements; napkin folding and table skirting. Trainers are food service consultants and professors of hotel and restaurant management who are award-winning coaches of the student division on Chefs on Parade.

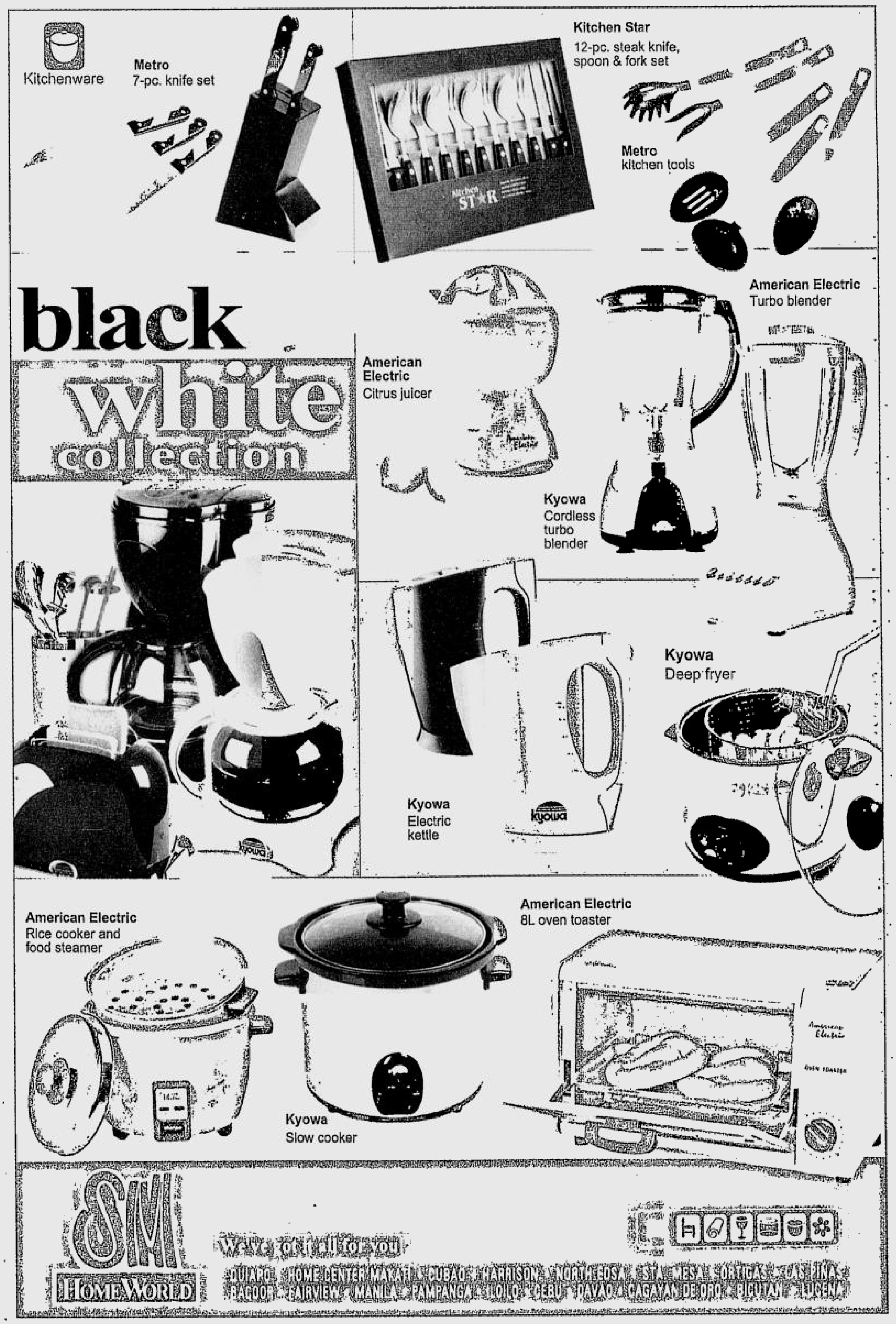
Call 7876370/0916-8226053 or e-mail pactserv@yahoo.com.

Serve Japanese dishes for Christmas dinner

SINAG Arts Foundation offers Japanese Cooking Classes facilitated by Tami Takagi. Learn to prepare budget-saving, healthy and great-tasting Japanese dishes without having to rush to special groceries to buy ingredients. The first session will be on Nov. 15 and will feature Sukiyaki and Tempura a la carte recipes. Session 2 on Nov. 22 will feature Sushi and Yakitori a la carte recipes.

Classes will be held from 1:30-4 p.m. at Sinag Arts Studio, 664 San Ignacio St., Brgy. Plainview, Mandaluyong City. Fee is P1,200 for 2 sessions, inclusive of materials. All prepared dishes will be served to participants after each session.

The workshop is open to all interested parties, aged 18-years-old above. Call 5313491/5319524 or e-mail sinagarts@yahoo.com.



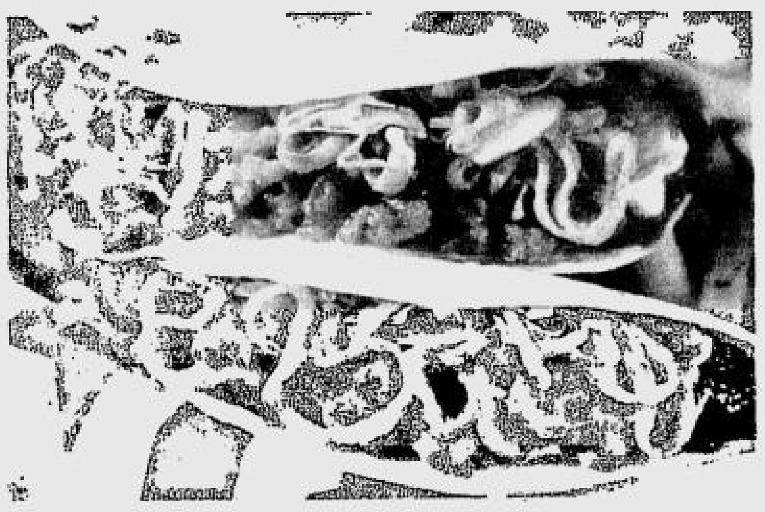
Go to the extreme with tacos

DINING OUT

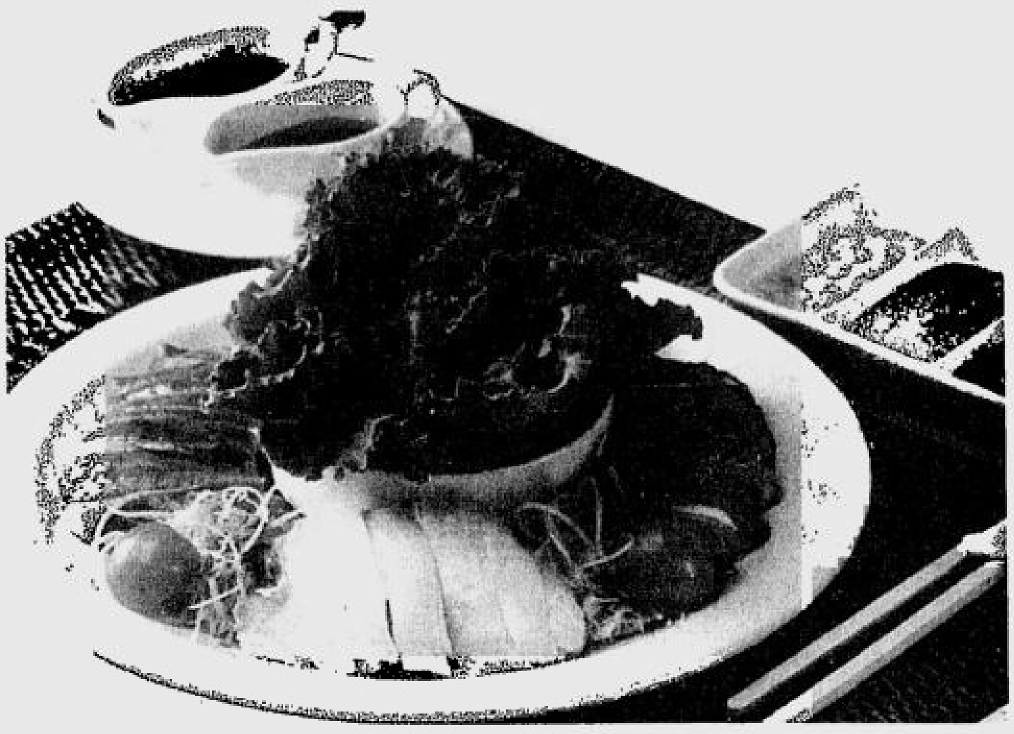
TGI Friday's features Extreme Tacos, such as Extreme Buffalo Chicken Tacos, Twisted BBQ Beef Tacos, Bleu Cheese Beef Tacos, Outrageous Pulled Pork Tacos, Outrageous Sliced BBQ Beef Tacos. TGI Friday's is located at Glorietta, Robinsons Place Manila, Hotel Rembrandt in QC, Alabang Town Center and The Brickroad at Sta. Lucia East.

THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza features delightful buffets. International favorites are available every Monday and Tuesday; Superbly Salmon dishes, Wednesday; The Longest Buffet in Town, Thursday and Saturday; Oysterrific Friday; and Moet & Chandon Jazz Brunch, Sunday. Call 5515555.

EDSA Shangri-La's Bakeshop introduces Sinful Pleasures this month. Featured are mango pecan pie, white and dark forest cake, tiramisu, lemon custard and fruit flan, apricot and truffle cake, white chocolate cheesecake, sweet chestnut cake, leek and mushroom pie, Mexican chili con carne pie and Chinese strudel. Call 6347373/6338888.


TGI Friday's Extreme Tacos

TASTE of Australia, a beef and wine promo, will feature more than 20 restaurants in November. Participating restos will profile Australian beef and wine by developing a special menu. Meals ordered from the Australian menu entitle diners to join a raffle for a trip to Australia plus two nights' stay at Shangri-La Hotel in Sydney.


RASA—The Best of Singapore presents Chicken Five Foot Way Trilogy, which consists of Hainanese, Soya and Crispy chicken. You can dip it in assorted sauces or wrap it in fresh vegetable leaves. Rasa is located at the Coliseum Circle (Araneta Coliseum), Araneta Center, QC.

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Fun learning experience for kids and adults

MAKE your kid's birthday, graduation and other celebrations very special. There are endless possibilities on what your kids can do and explore, and even discover through the help of Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center. Just recently, the building of Liberty Commodities Corporation's 8th floor along A. Arnaiz Avenue in Legaspi Village, Makati City was transformed into a play land as kids and parents celebrated a girl's 8th birthday.

The children and the celebrator learned some easy-to-prepare-by-kids recipes using Maya products. The children joined teacher chef Imee Borres to her demonstration of how to prepare Breads Artistry with fancy dough shapes of turtles and bears using Gold Medal all-purpose flour, an Edible Fish Bowl using Maya's unflavored *gulaman*, Purple Cow Shake and Happy Face Choco Muffins using Maya Chocolate Fudge Brownie Mix.

The first work table composed of 13-15 year-old kids was headed by teacher chef Joan Maquinay, followed by three tables of kids, ages 4-12 supervised by teacher chefs Nicole Ortiz, Elvie Ibale, Cara Latina, Marci Lati and Borres. Children 3 and below with teacher chef Liza Herradura shaped colorful clay and painting breads.

Each group formed an assembly line to make sure each kid had something to do. One measured the flour and the other, dry ingredients; others cracked and beat eggs, whipped cream and melted butter.

After a fun baking workshop, the kids were ushered in again to the classroom to celebrate their friend's birthday. A huge birthday cake adorned the centerpiece, which was surrounded by kids' all time favorite fare like spaghetti, barbecue, hotdogs on sticks, sweets, etc.

Maya Kitchen has lots of recipes you can choose from to give excitement and new cooking and baking experience to your guests. Call 89201185/8925011 local 108, or e-mail mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.

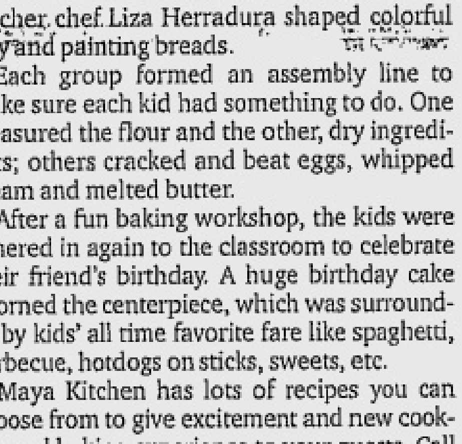
Bake your holiday gifts

LEARN new and exciting holiday treats and gifts for truly different and more personal Christmas presents.

Culinary expert Heny Sison will give a baking demonstration on Oct. 25, 1–4 p.m., at the San Miguel head office cafeteria. Sison will show how to make and package baked items in quantity.

Interested persons only have to bring any two wrappers of Magnolia Gold Butter, Baker's Best Margarine, Magnolia Cream Cheese, Purefoods Fiesta Ham and Purefoods Chunkee Corned Beef to get an entrance ticket. Admission is on a first-come-first-served basis.

Call 6719876 local 402 or 405.


NEW HEALTHY JUICE DRINKS
Del Monte 202 adds two new exciting flavors to its healthy amd delicious line of juice drinks—Del Monte Sweetened Apple 202 and Lychee Twist 202! Del Monte Sweetened Apple is made from real apple juice perfectly blended with other ingredients to give it a natural and sweet taste. Lychee Twist 202, on the other hand, is made from real lychee juice combined with *nata* bits.

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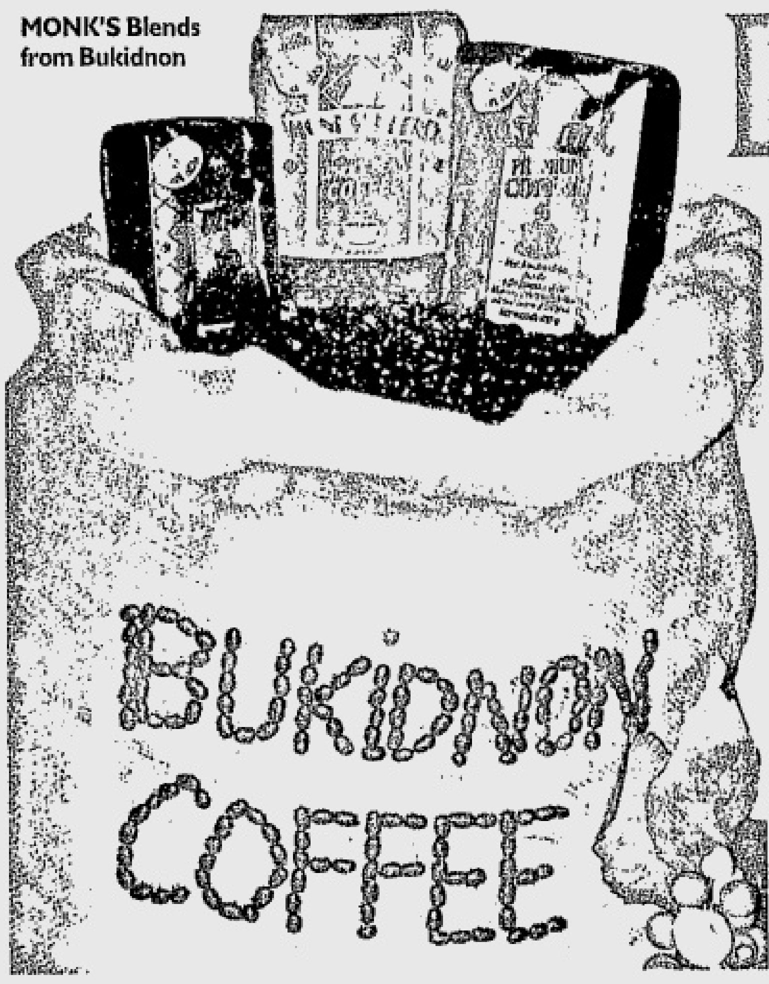
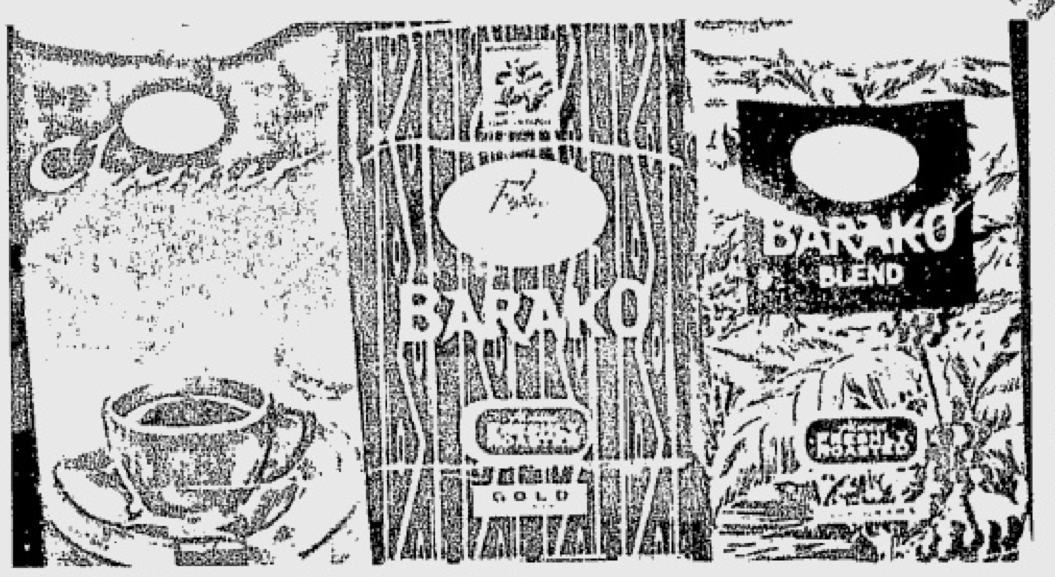
MONK'S Blends from Bukidnon



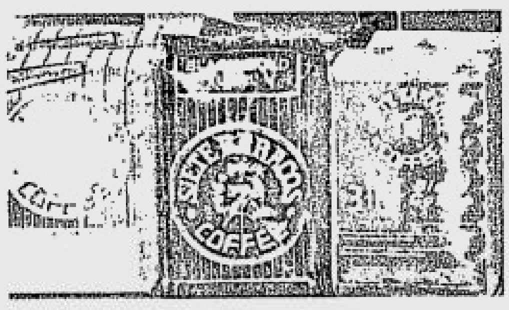


FIGARO Coffee Company's Classico and Barako

Wake up and smell the locally grown coffee

Say hello to Robusta, Excelsa, Arabica and Liberica, four beans produced in the Philippines

CAFÉ de Amadeo's coffee brands from Cavite



BAYANAN Delicacy Center's Siete Baracos from Lipa, Batangas

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Rudy Esperas

EVERY year, according to Nicholas Matti, co-chair of the National Coffee Development Board and president and general manager of Negros Coffee & Grains, Filipinos consume about 55,000 tons of coffee. Thanks to the high-street coffee war waged by popular coffee shops, whose extensive menus woo our palates and central nervous system, our country is one of the few that produce four varieties of commercially viable coffee: Robusta, Excelsa, Arabica and Liberica.

So if you thought Philippine coffee ends with Batangas' renowned *kapeng barako*, clearly, you have a lot more coffee to drink.

The National Coffee Development Board, Makati Business Club and Ayala Center have gathered the country's best coffee producers and merchants in "Coffee Break: A Toast to Coffee," ongoing until Oct. 26 at Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati.

At Greenbelt 3's Coffee Lounge, mall-goers can sample different coffees for free at 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day. Coffee merchants from different parts of the country sell whole beans and ground coffee.

"The festival aims to make people realize that coffee is the biggest industry in the Philippines. Its bean value is at least P3 billion. It's growing by leaps and bounds and there's more room for investment, not only in retail but also in farming," Matti says.

Formerly called "Black and White Coffee Festival," the affair was started by Ayala Center seven years ago.

"Coffee Break: A Toast to Coffee" features coffee paraphernalia, memorabilia, equipment, storyboards, an Internet wireless café, seminars, cooking demos and live entertainment starting at 7 p.m. at different venues in Greenbelt 3.

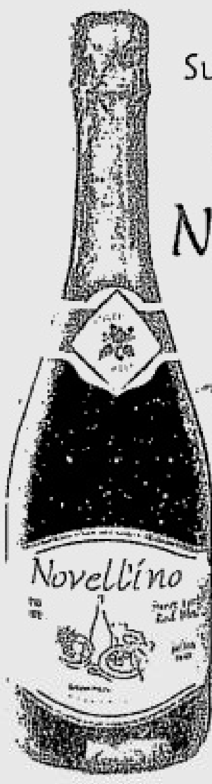
Coffee rehab program

Coffee, on the surface, appears to be a simple commodity. But what we don't know is the Philippines stands to save close to P1.5 billion in coffee imports every year should the country be successful in rehabilitating the ailing coffee industry.

According to Matti, the 35,000 metric tons (MT) shortfall in local coffee production translates to P1.5 billion based on a world market price of over P40 per kilo. "The Philippines is producing about 20,000 MT a year and our local consumption is increasing at 3 percent annually," Matti adds, projecting that the country is poised to save more once the industry recovers.

The National Coffee Development Board is a

WAKE UP/ F2



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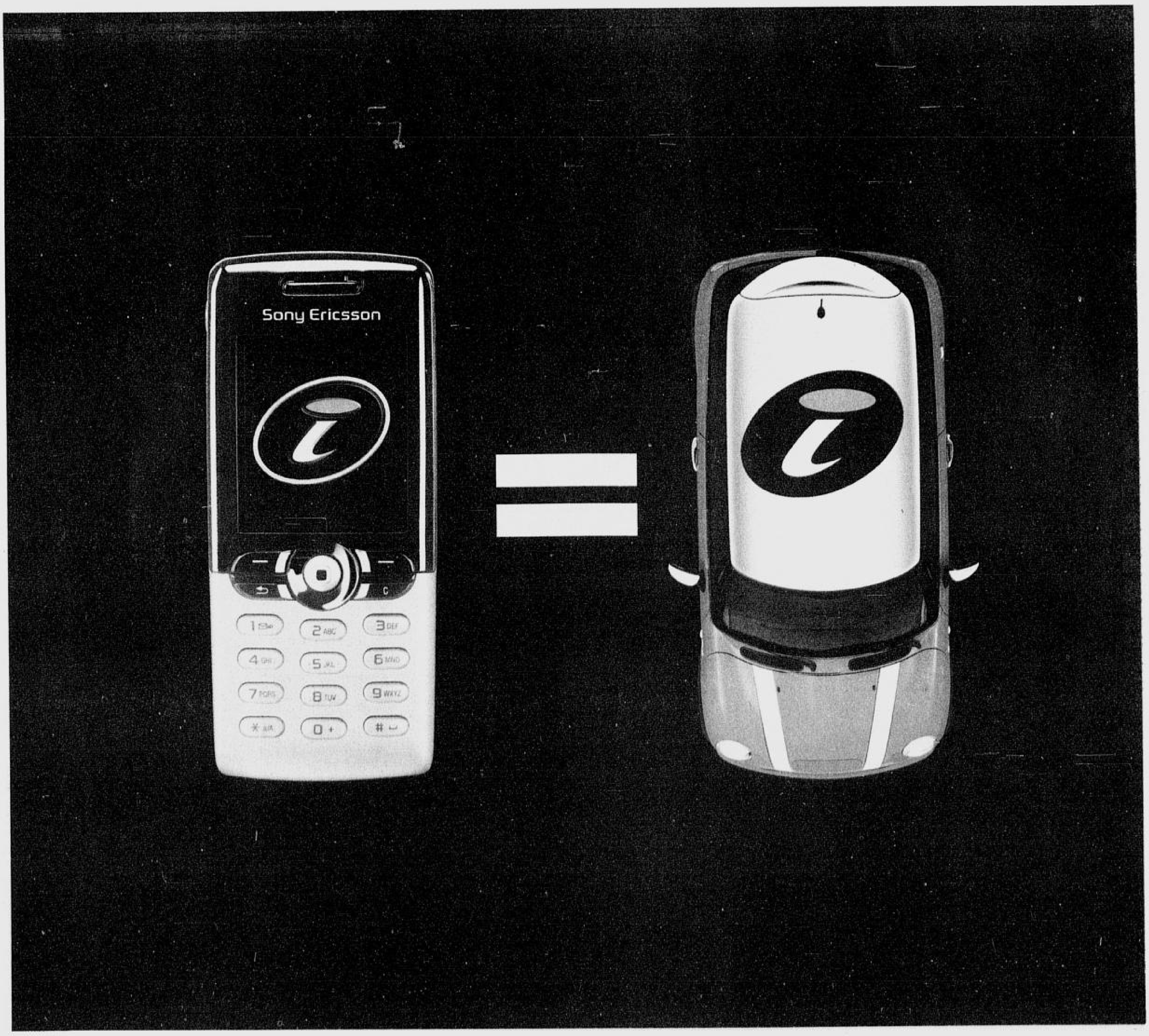


Alfresco but not espresso

THE SIPHON Method

KIWI Juice (left) and Coffee Jelly

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Johnny Villena

COFFEE never goes wrong in this "coffee shop of a hotel outside a hotel," where the clientele expect to be seated and waited on, count on snappy service and enjoy a steaming cup nonpareil in town.

"My passion is coffee; my blood is coffee," says Blue Mountain Coffee Ventures Inc. president and CEO Hubert U. Young, the franchise holder of the Japanese company Ueshima Coffee Company (UCC).

Its fourth and new concept store now serves the upscale market on 26th Street, Forbes Town Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Sitting comfortably near the greens of the Manila Golf Club, UCC Café Terrace is reminiscent of country clubs with warm, homey furniture for a casual and relaxing time with business associates or family. Unlike its UCC Vienna Café predecessors on Tomas Morato, QC; Connecticut, Greenhills; and The Podium, the UCC Café Terrace has an outdoor 95-seat capacity overlooking an elevated golf course.

Save for the restrained chatter of diners during peak hours, UCC Café Terrace maintains a calm ambience. "Instead of meeting elsewhere with your business partners, like some restaurant on Edsa where the traffic is heavy, why not come here and enjoy the view while dining or drinking coffee?" says Young.

Stand-alone

Young says UCC coffee shops have always put up branches in secluded locations, and never fails, he adds, to lure in a crowd and eventually win over a loyal following. (Even its The Podium branch is located at the far back of the mall.) UCC has no direct competitors in its category, he says, not even in the bustling Podium where popular coffee shops are a spitting distance away.

"We are not a fast-food coffee shop. We are a fine-dining coffee shop," he says.

Coffee, of course, is and will always be the bloodline of UCC. "We strictly are featuring coffee roasted, blended and perfected by UCC. At UCC coffee shops, you are guaranteed the best cup of coffee—our way."

What is the UCC way?

Everyone on the staff of the new UCC at The Fort knows how to make coffee using the siphon method

COFFEE is the bloodline of UCC.

There are a myriad ways to make a cup of coffee, and the easiest is by using instant sachets, Young explains. The European invention espresso machine, however, is the most popular of coffee preparations. It uses pressure/steam to extract coffee from the bean, and consumes about 6 g of coffee per cup. "The coffee brew is 1.5 oz, and the rest is water," he adds.

UCC, however, uses the siphon method that is akin to the old, traditional way of "*pinapakulo*," he says. The method requires meticulous time and boiling temperature measurement, and coffee extraction is not forced from the beans the way pressure or steam does. At 16 g of coffee per cup, UCC coffee is gloriously aromatic and has a full-bodied, robust, clean flavor.

"You're getting real, good coffee. To us this is the best way to brew coffee," he says.

Recently, however, a few coffee bistros in town have professed to the use of the siphon method as well. They've been selling coffee at a lower price. Yes, they actually do use the exact method, so what gives?

"The blender, the blood and soul of this company, know that the UCC blend is distinct. The mix is consistently UCC blend," he says.

Go Dutch

Another unique and popular feature is the Coffee Jelly—coffee gelatin topped with vanilla ice cream and whipped cream—slowly prepared by the Dutch coffee machine. It is an eight-hour process where coffee is extracted from the beans using only room temperature. This way oil is not extracted, and there's no loss of flavor and taste when transposed to cold gelatin.

"The liquid brew that is transformed to gelatin and chilled is a very concentrated coffee. Coffee Jelly is not just another fancy name. You are actually eating pure coffee," he says.

Only at the UCC Café Terrace are waiters a push-button away courtesy of the service button, and take down orders using I-pod. In fact, the staff is one-of-a-kind, too.

"Everyone can cook, make coffee and wait on clients," Young says. Having personnel that is cross-trained all around eliminates the need for chefs.

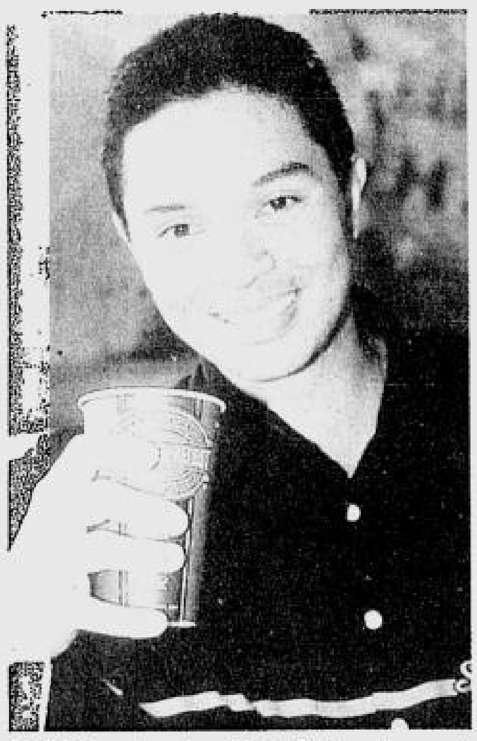
The food is good that one would never guess every Tom, Dick and Harry on the staff prepared it. "It's superb, unique and has its own position in the market," Young says.

Bestsellers are the Chicken Teriyaki Eggplant Sandwich, Seafood Salad, Seafood Soup Spaghetti. There's an array of pastries for desserts, and delicious gourmet *ensaymadas* are also available, such as Belgian chocolate, white Toblerone, blueberry, mango, or patron/actor-comedian Dolphy's fave, the apple *ensaymada*.

UCC serves Filipino breakfast, such as Smoked Bangus Omelette, Bangus Sardines, Smoked Boneless Bangus, with options to either have it with coffee (UCC House Blend), juice or cocoa at P199. "This is a great deal for breakfast [and] to get people to try our coffee."

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

The lure of coffee



JOEY Cuerdo enjoys his Café Americano at Seattle's.

"CLIMBERS are natural coffee drinkers. Our sport requires explosive power, and caffeine is a great source of that," says Joey Cuerdo, managing partner of Power Up Climbing Gyms. With his wife, Molly, and a bunch of other enterprising individuals, he pioneered indoor rock climbing in the country by putting up the first indoor climbing facility.

Being an unconventional businessman in an unconventional business, Joey is the first to admit the value of Seattle's Best Coffee as a meeting place. "We're climbers—we don't have board rooms in the gym! So when we need to do planning or to meet for a competition or whatever, we usually gather at SBC," he relates while enjoying his Café Americano, usually at SBC in Megamall.

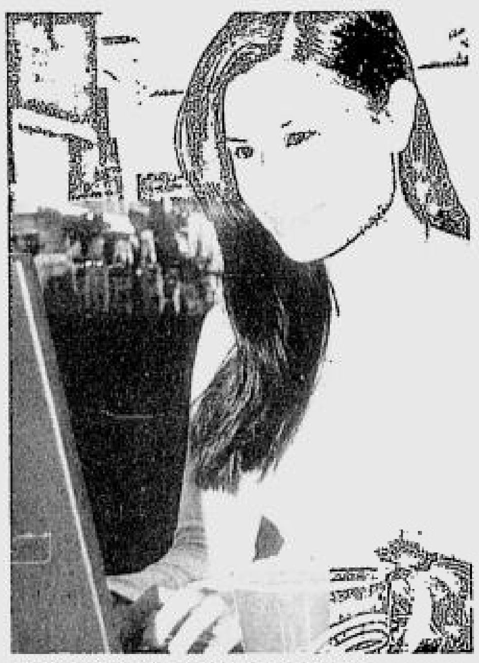
Pett Narciso should be a stark contrast to the unconventional business person, but surprisingly enough, he's not. A veteran banker of 32 years, the Café Americano-drinking Pett is in the best position to validate the value of SBC as a welcome alternative to the boardroom.

"Normally, I call for meetings here at SBC, whether to talk to a client or to celebrate a cinched deal with my staff or to tell them what they did wrong," he adds. "Of course, it's relaxing and more conducive to creative thinking, but there's one important element that can only be found in the coffee-shop setting—potential business," he explains. Pett is frequents in Harrison Plaza.

But, business or not, a White Chocolate Mocha from SBC is reason enough for MTV's Anne Matoto to stop at the SBC store nearest her office, the one in Rockwell Power Plant Mall. "I can drink this every day!" gushes the pretty 25-year-old. She should feel right at home at any SBC store, what with its funky décor, cool music and easy ambience. "You can relax, you can do business, or you can just have coffee," Anne adds.

Seattle's Best Coffee stores are located at Greenbelt 1, SM Megamall Mega Strip, Paseo Center, Rockwell Power Plant, Eastwood City Walk and E. Rodriguez, QC.

VETERAN banker and Café Americano-drinking Pett Narciso is in the best position to validate the value of SBC as a welcome alternative to the boardroom.



ANNE Matoto of MTV's marketing group should feel right at home at any SBC store, what with its funky décor, cool music and the easy ambience.

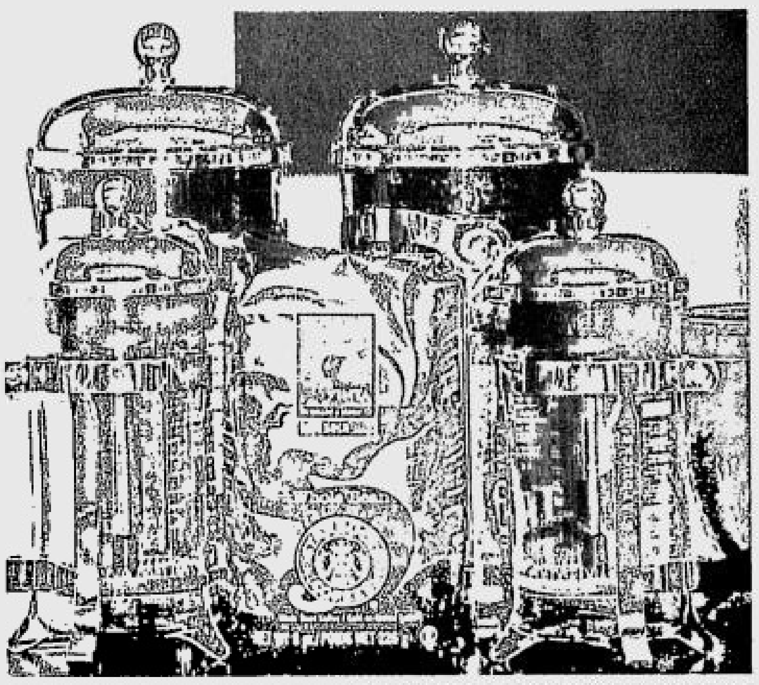
Wake up and smell . . .

From page F1

LIFESTYLE Asia editor Sari Yap, event host Manu Sandejas, broadcaster Ces Drilon and Guillermo Luz, National Coffee Development Board director and Makati Business Club executive director

COFFEE BREAK

PACITA Juan, president and CEO, Figaro Cofee Co.; Nicolas Matti, president and GM, Negros Coffee and Grains; Agriculture Secretary Cito Lorenzo; and Makati Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin



STARBUCKS' Café Vinta blends Mindanao coffee and imported beans.

private sector-led group, originally sworn into office as the National Task Force on Coffee Rehabilitation by President Macapagal-Arroyo last year. The board aims to develop and promote the Philippine coffee industry through technical assistance and credit programs for coffee farms, certification of coffee farms, millers and roasters and through marketing of coffee for domestic and export markets.

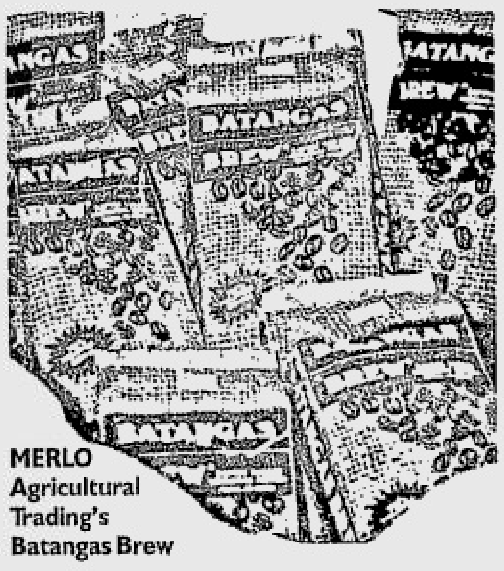
The board aims to cover the shortfall and return to the export market over the next 10-year period. Matti says, however, that this period may be shortened as the board continues to find ways and means to produce seeds and seedlings more quickly. "It's technologically possible because we have local plant geneticists. We have the expertise here."

Matti says there are other components to the coffee rehabilitation program and all these are focused on a total revival of the industry. The Kape Isla program is the marketing and promotional component, which aims to serve as the industry's battle cry to develop loyalty to Philippine coffee, reduce imports, increase domestic production and create new jobs. Kape Isla is intended for the use of different players in the industry as a Philippine quality seal.

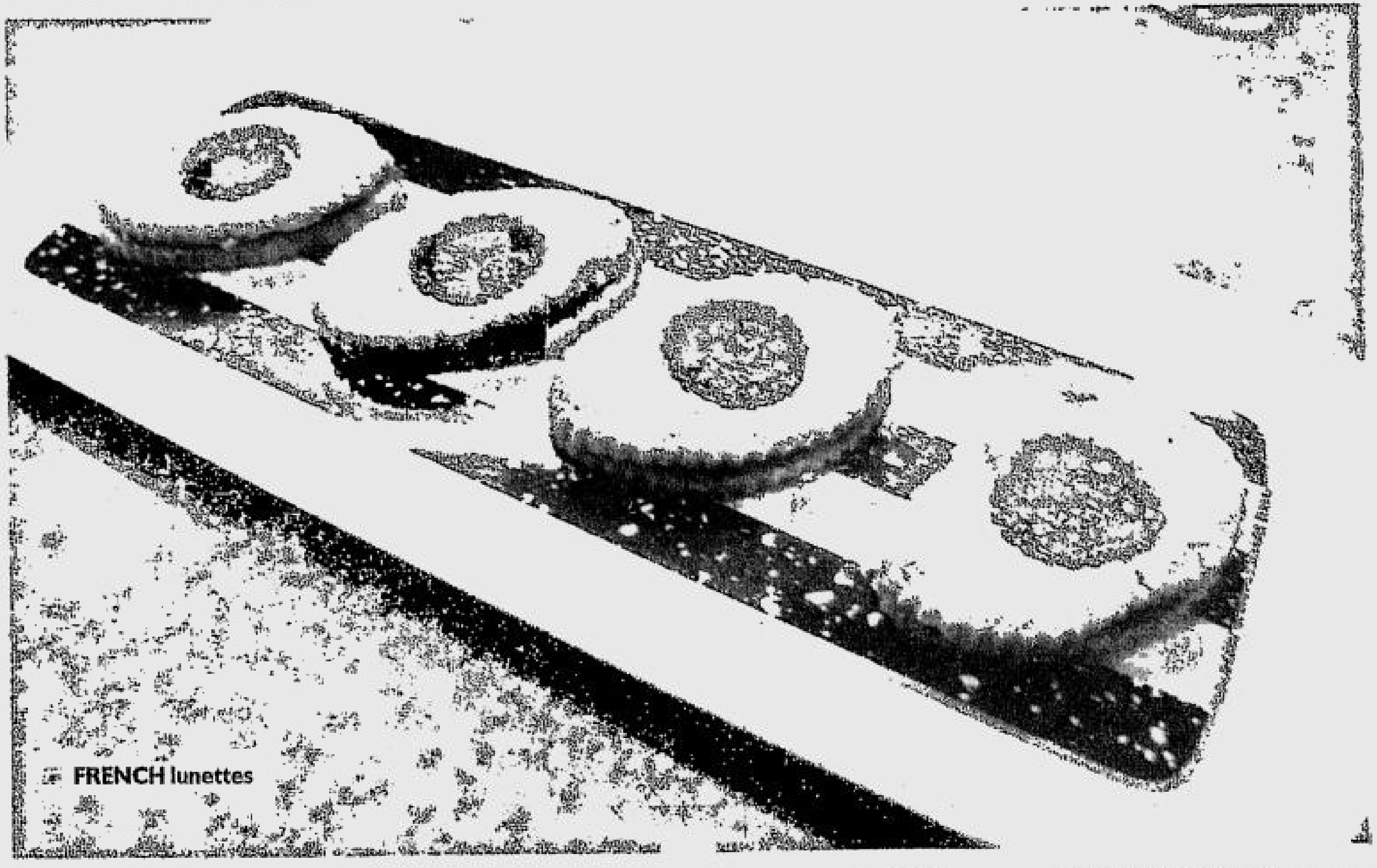
To date, 22 merchants have signed up with the program. They are Batangas Brew, Big Shot Billiards, Bean Central Roastery, Bo's Coffee Club, Boyd Coffee Co. (Phils.), Café Amadeo, Café Breton, Coffee Dream Co. Inc., Coffee Experience, Commonwealth Foods Inc., Cravings Group, Culinary Exchange, Deck Coffee, Dunkin' Donuts, Figaro Coffee Company, Gourmet Farms, Max's (Congressional branch), Mocha Blends, Monks' Blend, Seattle's Best, Siete Barako and Starbucks.

"We want to raise public awareness that Philippine coffee is good. It can be at par with the world's best. Our country's geographical location and climate make this possible," Matti says.

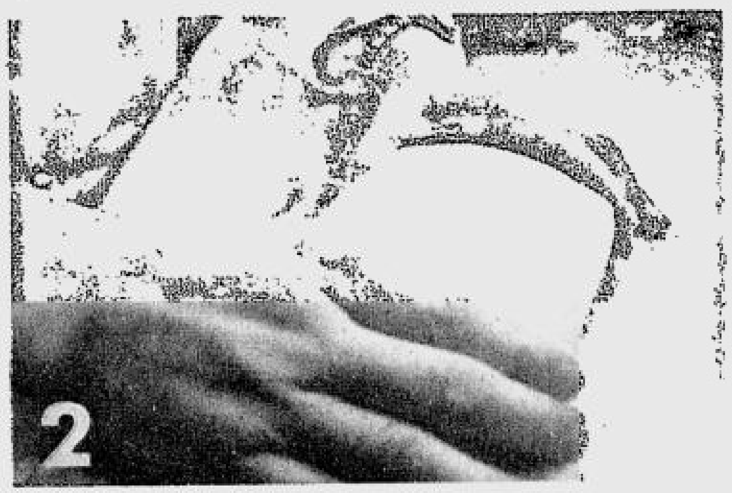
E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



MERLO Agricultural Trading's Batangas Brew


FRENCH lunettes

PREHEAT oven to 175°C. Using a mixer with a paddle attachment, mix butter, vanilla and flour (gradually so it will not explode) until everything is well incorporated. Add sugar and egg yolks. Mix for an additional two minutes at medium speed.



REMOVE the dough from the mixer bowl. Wrap in plastic film and store in the chiller for at least two hours. When the dough is hard, remove the plastic film.

Sandwich cookies, the French way

By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Johnny Villena

FRENCH cookies always have a delicate taste and are exceptionally good and filling. A perfect example are the crisp, butter-rich French lunettes.

The slim, oval biscuits come in pairs with jam—apricot, raspberry, strawberry or blueberry—in between. Kids will definitely go crazy over this sandwich cookie.

According to French Baker's Johnlu Koa, lunettes are usually served in posh restaurants and hotels and can be very expensive. Though lunettes look quite difficult to prepare, they are really easy to make and can be a fun activity with your kids.

For this pictorial, Koa demonstrates how to prepare lunettes with raspberry jam. But you can use your own favorite jellies that are available in supermarkets like papaya,pineapple, guava or orange.

"Lunettes can (have) a variety of fillings...from sweet to savory," says Koa. "They really are rather elegant *hors d'oeuvre* that can be made with very little work. Your family and friends will never know how easy they are to make. Try them and they may become your most requested dessert."

The dough, which consists of flour, butter, sugar and egg yolks, can be made ahead of time, frozen then thawed before use.

Ingredients:
250 g all-purpose flour
200 g Magnolia Gold Butter
100 g refined sugar
40 g egg yolks
1 tsp vanilla extract

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

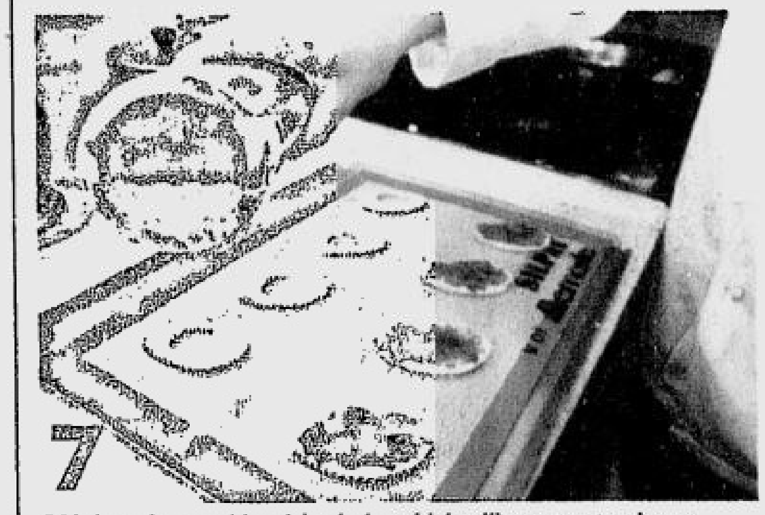
STEP BY STEP

ROLL out the dough on a floured surface to about 1/8 inch thickness.

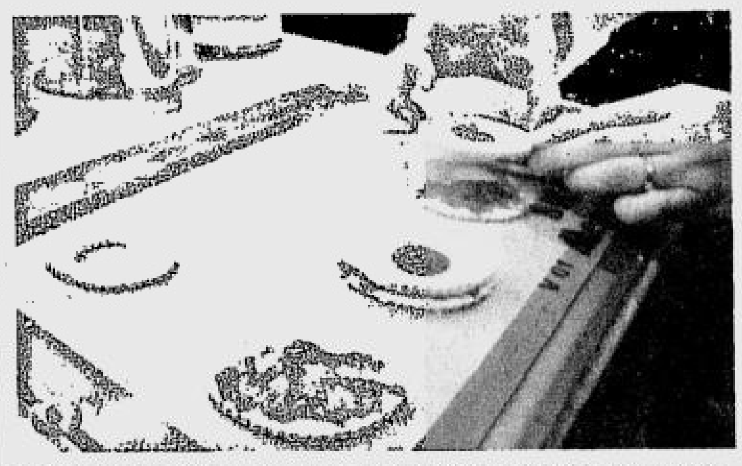
WITH a cookie cutter, cut out pieces of dough. Then pair the cut pieces of dough, cutting an extra hole in the center of one piece.

BAKE until cookies turn light brown, about 12 minutes.

LET the cookies cool then spread raspberry jam all over the cookie that will serve as base.



ON the other cookie with a hole, which will serve as top layer, sprinkle powder sugar in the center.


PUT it on top of the other to show raspberry jam through the hole. Store in boxes and keep in the refrigerator.

Vegetables with pizzazz

By Dorothy MJ Ferreria
Contributor

VEGGIES can be popular dishes if we prepare them in a way that is different, appealing and interesting. Here we have garlic *kangkong*, similar to our *adobong kangkong*, *kilawing puso ng saging* and baked veggies. These are easy to prepare and loaded with much precious fiber.

Garlic Kangkong

1 bundle Chinese *kangkong*, approx. 450 g
3 tbsp corn or canola oil
2 tbsp well-pounded garlic
salt to taste
freshly ground black pepper to taste
¼ tsp sesame oil

Wash the *kangkong* well in running water. Discard the roots. Separate the leaves from the stem. Slice the stem diagonally into small pieces. Set aside.

Heat up the oil in a large frying pan. As soon as the oil is hot enough, pour in the garlic and sauté until fragrant. It is important not to allow the garlic to color. Add the *kangkong* stems and sauté for a few seconds until it starts to wilt. Add the *kangkong* leaves and continue mixing over a fairly high heat until it wilts. Season with salt and pepper. Lastly season with sesame oil.

(Note: Spinach leaves and *polonchay* may also be used in place of *kangkong*).

Kilawing Puso ng Saging

3 pcs banana heart (long and white variety)
20 g *sotanghon* noodles
¼ c corn oil
1 tbsp minced garlic
½ c chopped onion
¼ kg ground beef or pork
1 c water
salt to taste
pepper to taste
½ c vinegar

Discard the outer leaves of the banana heart. Slice the banana heart diagonally into thin strips. Soak in salted water. Set aside. Soak the *sotanghon* noodles in water to soften.

Heat the oil in a wok. Sauté garlic and onions. Add the ground meat and sauté only until it changes color. Squeeze the banana heart dry and add to the sauteed mixture. Mix well. Add water and season with salt and pepper. Boil and simmer until the heart is tender. Add the *sotanghon* noodles and mix well. Add the vinegar and allow to boil without stirring. Serve with *patis* and calamansi on the side.

Baked Creamy Vegetables

¼ c butter or margarine
1 tsp minced garlic
¼ c all purpose flour
2 c fresh milk
1 chicken broth cube
5 c assorted boiled vegetables such as string beans, carrots, potatoes, *sayote*, cauliflower and brocolli
Quickmelt cheese

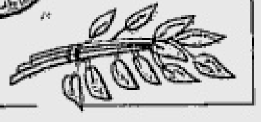
Preheat the oven to 350 °F. Saute the garlic in butter until fragrant. Then add the flour and mix well. Then pour in the milk and the chicken cube.

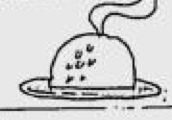
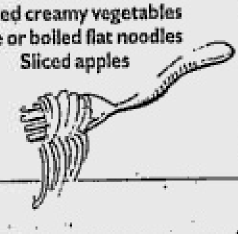
Allow to boil and then simmer until thick. Remove from heat. Add the vegetables and mix well. Transfer to a baking dish and top with grated cheese.

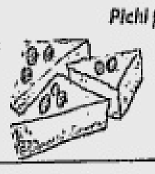
Bake for about 15 minutes or until the cheese has melted.

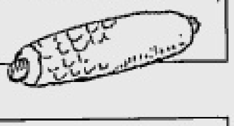
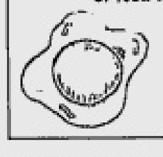
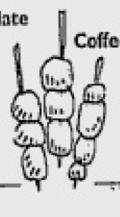
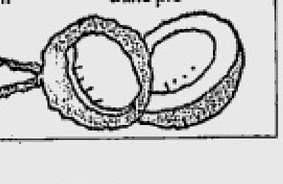
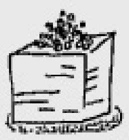
Dorothy MJ Ferreria offers cooking, baking and cake decorating classes at Dorothy's Cooking School in Quezon City. Call 7217735 or e-mail dorothycookingschool@yahoo.com

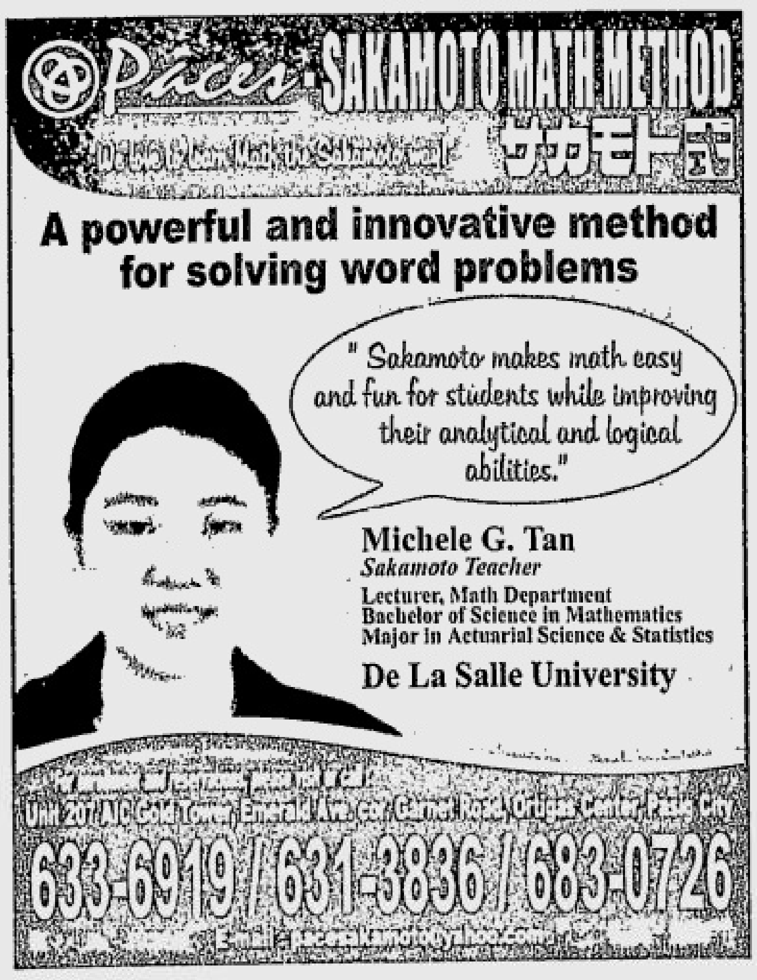
	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
MONDAY	Cereal and milk Canned meat loaf *Pandesal* Butter and cheese Coffee or iced tea *Atis*	Chicken noodle soup *Rellenong talong* with ground pork Rice Egg pie	Steamed fish Garlic *kangkong* Rice Almond jelly
TUESDAY	Omelet with ham and bell pepper Bread Butter and cheese Coffee, hot chocolate or fruit juice	Chicken *tinola* *Guinataang kalabasa* Rice Chilled pineapple rings	*Pancit canton* *Lumpiang shanghai* Green tea ice cream
WEDNESDAY	Oatmeal Vienna sausage Bread Butter and assorted spreads Coffee or hot chocolate Banana	Salad greens Pork *menudo* Rice Mango ala mode	*Halaan* soup with *misua* noodles *Kilawing puso ng saging* Rice *Mangosteen*
THURSDAY	Rice Pork and beans Coffee, hot chocolate or iced tea	Fried chicken wings Baked creamy vegetables Rice or boiled flat noodles Sliced apples	Tossed greens Baked macaroni Garlic bread Plain cheesecake
FRIDAY	Hotcake with butter and syrup Bacon Coffee, hot chocolate or hot tea Papaya	*Pesang baka* Rice *Pichi pichi*	Clear soup *Daing na bangus* *Pinakbet* Rice *Mais con hielo* with cornflakes
SATURDAY	Garlic rice *Tocino* Poached eggs Coffee, hot chocolate or iced tea	Macaroni salad Chicken and pork barbecue Java rice Coffee jelly and ice cream	Beef steak with onion rings Mashed potatoes Buttered vegetables *Buko* pie
SUNDAY	Churros or doughnuts Coffee or hot chocolate Fresh fruit platter	*Pochero* Rice Assorted *kakanin*	Clear soup with tofu and mushrooms Fish and vegetable tempura Fried rice Sherbet



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The good and bad side of car ownership

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

CAR owner Baby Saavedra relates her feel-good experience with the people of Goodyear-Alabang as well as her disappointment with the sales clerk of a tire store in Quezon Avenue, QC, where her husband purchased four tires. There was an ongoing promo that entitled buyers a gift umbrella for every two tires bought. But, when he asked the sales girl if he was entitled to the gift, he was told that the offer was good only for cash purchases.

Saavedra called up Goodyear-Alabang to complain. It was a holiday, however, when she called up. Nevertheless, she was told to leave her telephone number and the details of her gripe. Her complaint reached the right person at Goodyear, a certain Mimi Gallardo, who promptly made sure that the Saavedras got the two gift umbrellas.

"I'm happy with my umbrellas, and most especially happy also with the after-sales service of Goodyear-Alabang office."

We received this letter from Stephen Sy, owner of a Mitsubishi Lancer GLXi-A/T 1999 model. He complained about the disturbing noise that emanated from the right underneath portion of his car every time it passed through a rough road. According to him, the service centers at Abad Santos and Balintawak-Oliveros failed to detect the cause so the car had to be brought to the car plant in Alabang. Sy wrote that it took the staff a long time to repair the car.

We called Balintawak center and learned from service manager Renato Tagle that after a series of tests, the car was eventually brought for more tests to the main plant in Alabang. The car was finally delivered to Sy on Sept. 20. "Jun Picones, an engineer at the main plant, has called the customer to check on the status of the car," Tagle said.

Status of homeowners' complaint

A group of homeowners of Greenfields I Subdivision in Metro Manila filed on Oct. 23, 2002, an administrative complaint at the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board against the officers of a local homeowners association. The complainants griped that the case had remained unsolved after 11 months since it was filed. "The arbiter could, if he wanted to, terminate the case and obtain a decision within five to six months as stated in a ruling that took effect on March 2, 2000," the homeowners said.

"If our personal experiences would be the bases for forming our judgment on how the particular HLURB unit is performing its task of mediating disputes of homeowners and their association officers, we would give it a failing mark," the complainants griped.

We did call the designated arbiter, lawyer Dunstan San Vicente, and this was the information we got. "The case was dismissed for insufficient proofs to prove all the allegations that were cited in the complaint."

DTI answers the complaint of Joey Romero of Davao City about the rudeness and impatience of the clerk who answered the phone of the WG&A-Davao-Cargo at the time of her call. "I just wanted information about my cargo and the clerk had been grouchy on two occasions."

DTI advised Romero: "We suggest that you get the following information, name of offending employee, time and date, plus other pertinent details regarding the cargo. Write to the employee's immediate superior. Another option is to complain directly to the customer service person. Should they fail to answer you, report the incident to the local DTI office."

Dang Fernandez of Makati City complained that some sales clerks at a department store in Ayala commercial center "lack good customer relations." A salesclerk had offered to help her choose different linen designs. The clerk was helpful at first, but when asked if there were cheaper items available, the clerk's tone turned sour. She abruptly left after telling Fernandez to go search for the items she needed. After some time, Fernandez decided to buy the first linen sets she saw. The salesclerk remarked, "*Babalik din pala, gusto pa kasi may discount*."

Fernandez also griped that when she asked a salesclerk where the sewing kits were, she was told that the department store did not sell the kits. "She was too busy chatting with the guard. Fortunately, it was the security guard who informed us where the kits were. I hope you can send this concern to the management of the department store," Fernandez added.

DTI commented, "Dissatisfaction on the attitude of sales personnel is not covered by the Consumer Act of the Philippines, hence DTI has no jurisdiction over such complaints. Nonetheless, the complaint of Dang Fernandez was brought to the attention of the Bureau of Trade Regulations and Consumer Protection (BTRCP) of DTI."

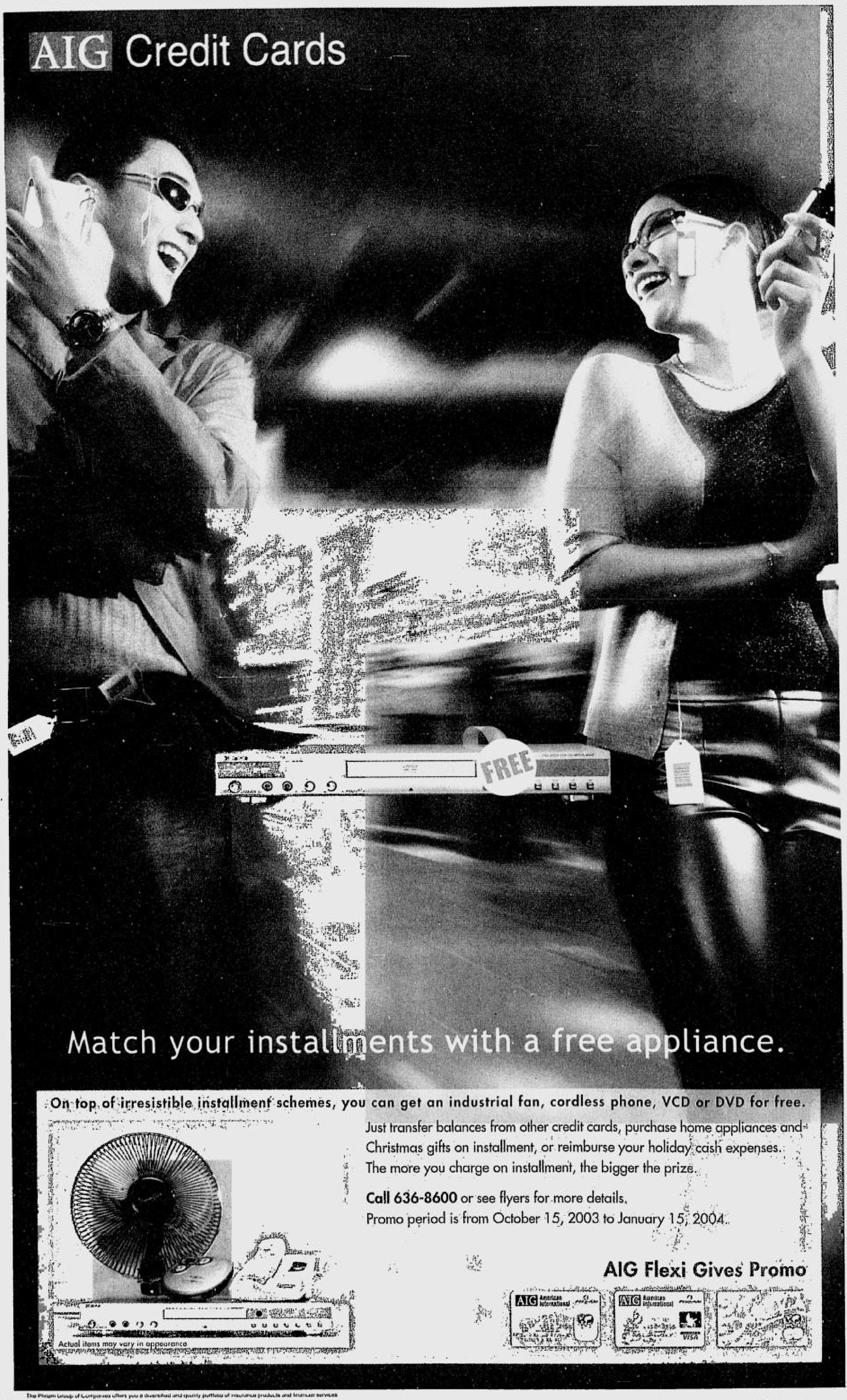
By the way, the BTRCP is conducting lectures on the Consumer Act, and how establishments can establish good customer relations. Call 8904932 or 8965740.

Online tips on cheaper construction

Planning to remodel your homes, build a house, office or store? There's a new website that gives user-friendly tips on easier and cheaper construction strategies. One can go through the website to canvass for supplies and services, read through profiles of companies, search through the extensive directory of professional engineers, architects, service providers and products.

Also of help to consumers are simple manuals with pointers on getting construction financing, how to apply for building permits, pre-construction checklist, and more. Included is a useful conversion table that estimates and computes the amount of construction materials you will need for certain jobs like computing how many tiles or paint you will need for a surface. The new website portal (www.myinterspec.com) was launched recently. It is actually a spin-off from the Interspec Construction Information Source CD that releases every six months free construction information CDs to industry professionals.

Call 6877943 or 6871537.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We deserve somebody better than FPJ, says Ramos

Story below, Col. 1

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Flying eye hospital offers better view

By Blanche S. Rivera

THERE'S a life-changing view at the top for three Filipinos on board Orbis' DC-10 aircraft, the world's only flying eye hospital.

Leonardo Mercado, James Salillas and Phil Abad are helping the hospital on wings succeed in its vision to prevent blindness, especially in developing na-

FLYING/ A21

Friday, October 24, 2003 ★★ 76 pages / 9 sections / vol. 18 / no. 318 P15

HISTORIC first: A supreme irony that Chief Justice Hilario Davide, who presided over the impeachment of former President Joseph Estrada three years ago today, faces an impeachment trial based on charges of "multiple acts of malfeasance, breach of public trust and thoughtless extravagance." PDI PHOTO

Danding solons impeach Davide

17 Lakas members also among 81 signatories

By Carlito Pablo and Cynthia Balana

IN A POLITICAL masterstroke, congressmen identified with businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. yesterday succeeded in impeaching Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. of the Supreme Court.

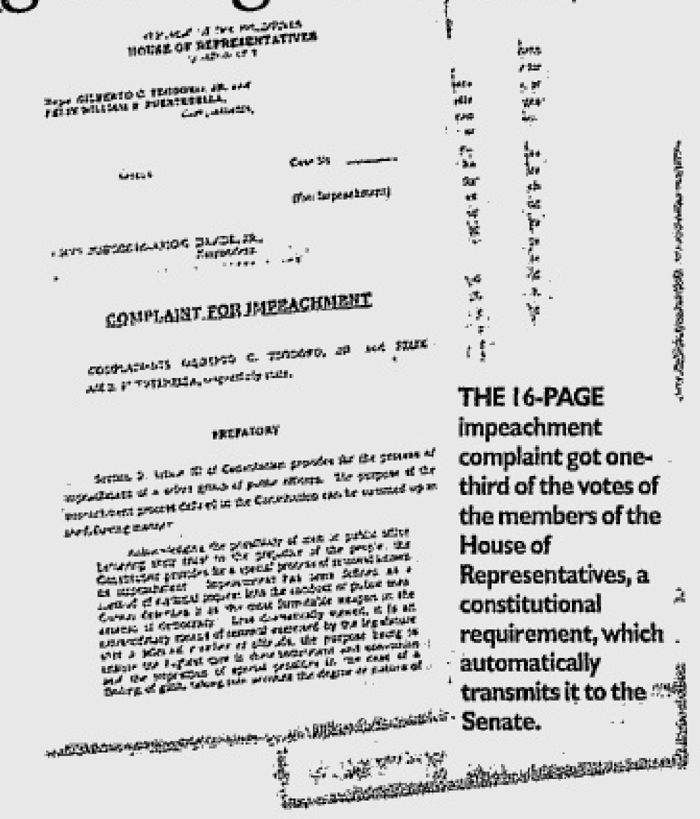
The man who presided over the impeachment trial of President Joseph Estrada almost three years ago suddenly found himself facing a Senate trial after more than 76 congressmen, or one-third of the House membership, signed a second impeachment complaint against him, this time for alleged irregularities in the disbursement of the Judiciary Development Fund.

The highly regarded Davide, the INQUIRER's Filipino of the Year for 2000, became the first Chief Justice to be impeached, and only the second government official since Estrada.

The principal authors of the complaint were Cojuangco nephew Rep. Gilbert Teodoro, leader of Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition, and Rep. William Fuentebella. They led what amounted to a house-to-house signature campaign.

The INQUIRER learned that Representatives Kim Bernar-

DANDING/ A20



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMPLAINT FOR IMPEACHMENT

PREFATORY

THE 16-PAGE impeachment complaint got one-third of the votes of the members of the House of Representatives, a constitutional requirement, which automatically transmits it to the Senate.

Davide: Malicious, baseless, political

By Philip C. Tubeza

CHIEF Justice Hilario Davide Jr. yesterday said the new impeachment complaint against him was "unavoidable" because "politics" was involved in its filing.

Davide said the complaint filed by Representatives Gilbert Teodoro and Felix William Fuentebella was a "baby" of the Nationalist People's Coalition, the party of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, whose members made up most of the signatories. *(See list on Page A20.)*

"I am prepared to meet them for what is a malicious, unjustified, baseless and unfounded accusation," Davide said in an ambush interview, referring to the allegation that he had misused the Judiciary Development Fund (JDF).

Supreme Court Administrator Presbitero Velasco Jr. said the Senate should not entertain the new complaint because the Constitution prohibits it.

Velasco said that under Article 5 Section 11 of the Constitution, a new complaint against Davide could only be initiated a year after the first was lodged. The first complaint was filed by the lawyers of ousted President Joseph Estrada on June 2.

The constitutional provision cited by Ve-

DAVIDE/ A20

Ping backers consolidate in wake of FPJ bid

By Carlito Pablo
and Christine O. Avendaño

CONGRESSMEN supporting the presidential candidacy of Sen. Panfilo Lacson are circling the wagons around their champion amid frenetic efforts by some quarters in the opposition to draft popular actor Fernando Poe Jr.

Lawmakers mostly belonging to a faction of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino met Wednesday night in Quezon City to affirm their support for Lacson.

"It's a go," said Rep. Gilbert Remulla (LDP, Cavite) of Lacson's candidacy.

In the Senate, Lacson said the opposition had no choice but to pick him as its standard-bearer because he enjoyed the support of not only the majority of his party mates in the LDP but also of leaders of other parties.

At a news conference, Lacson said LDP congressmen and leaders of Joseph Estrada's Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino and some members of the Liberal Party and Reporma expressed their support for his candidacy at a consultative meeting in Quezon City on Wednesday.

Lacson claimed that he had the support of nine of 11 LDP congressmen, PMP president Horacio "Boy" Morales and secretary general Lito Banayo and three members of the PMP in the House, namely, Representatives Ronaldo Zamora, Didagen Dilangalen and Georgilu Yumul-Hermida.

The nine LDP representatives were Minority Leader Carlos Padilla, Agapito "Butz" Aquino (LDP secretary general), Rolex Suplico, Celso Lobregat, Gilbert Remulla, Abraham Kahlil Mitra, Rozzano "Raffy" Biazon, Augusto Baculio and Hussin Amin.

The others who were present at the meeting, which was hosted by Zamora at his residence in Ayala Heights, were Representatives Plaridel Abaya (LP), Emmy

PING/ A21

'He has no choice but to submit to a Senate trial'

By Carlito Pablo

AN OPPOSITION senator said the decision of the House of Representatives to impeach Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. was "not totally unexpected," while in the House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II, who did not sign the impeachment complaint, warned of a constitutional crisis if Davide continued to insist that the impeachment complaint against him, the second filed this year, was unconstitutional.

Gonzales reacted to radio reports in which Davide said the second impeachment complaint was illegal.

"If he (Davide) does not recognize our power (to initiate impeachment), he has no

HE HAS/ A20

FVR on FPJ candidacy in '04: We deserve better

By Norman Bordadora

THE COUNTRY deserves someone better than actor Fernando Poe Jr., former President Fidel V. Ramos said yesterday.

"With all due respect to everybody, we should elect somebody who is well-prepared. Governance is not a simple matter," Ramos said at an informal news conference.

Poe, who is expected to announce next week whether he will run for president, has no experience in government service. But it is acknowledged even by administration officials that he can easily win the presidential race in May if he throws his hat into the political ring because of his popularity.

"The Philippines is a country of more than 80 million people, majority of whom are the young. The youth deserve a better future," Ramos said.

He said the ability to govern could not be acquired through playing roles in the movies. "One does not acquire the ability to govern six months after declaring that he is running," said Ramos, who is rooting for President Macapagal-Arroyo in the presidential election in May.

He said Ms Macapagal was the best equipped among the presidential aspirants to lead the country in the advent of globalization and in the wake of international terrorist threats.

Administration Sen. Robert Barbers said Poe could easily win the presidential election, but he pointed out that winning was one thing, and governing another.

Barbers warned that the country could find itself in a "catastrophic" situation similar to what happened during the short-lived Estrada administration should Poe decide to run, and win.

FVR/ A21

GMA: Let's not terrorize ourselves

SO WHO is terrorizing whom?

President Macapagal-Arroyo is calling on the public to stay calm after a slew of negative news stories, particularly on the presence of foreign terrorists in the country, drove the peso past the 55-level against the US dollar.

It was Ms Macapagal's security officials, however, who had played up the new threat posed by the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terror network. According to the officials, about 30 accomplices of a captured JI operative are on the loose. Some officials also reported—but later denied—that the JI operatives were training in bioterrorism. *(See related story on Page A2).*

Even so, Ms Macapagal yesterday urged the public to stop worrying and start looking at the more positive side of things.

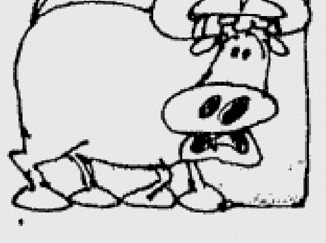
"I know the markets are heavily driven by perception, but let us stop scaring ourselves and move forward rotationally. Our economic fundamentals are sound and each day comes with a new hope and opportunity," she said in a statement.

"Like all nations, we have to face the threat of terrorism but let us stop terrorizing ourselves and keep the strength to jump forward day by day."

Ms Macapagal said the killing of JI bomb maker Fathur Roman al-Ghozi (who escaped from a high security cell in Camp Crame and got everyone in Southeast Asia worried) as well as the recent arrest of JI paymaster Taufek Refke showed the government's "collective determination and capability to end this threat."

In a briefing, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Ms Macapagal focused only on the JI threat in her comment because she felt that this was the concern uppermost in the minds of

GMA/ A21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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Palawan, Calamian Group, Cuyo, Occidental Mindoro, Lubang Island and Antique will have rains and occasional gusty winds. The rest of Southern Luzon, rest of Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/24/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

'Terrorists falling one by one'

By Philip C. Tubeza and Martin P. Marfil

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday security forces have uncovered a major cell of the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terror network in the country as she paraded the latest catch in the government's war on terrorism.

"The terrorists are falling one by one. This reduces the weight of the terrorist threat across the broad range of targets in our country and across Southeast Asia," the President said during a briefing at the justice department where she presented Taufek Refke, one of the Jemaah Islamiyah's top operatives in Mindanao who was captured by security forces on Oct. 2.

"Our ongoing constriction measures are eating up their room for maneuver. The peace process with the MILF [Moro Islamic Liberation Front] will continue to isolate them. Our determined moves against poverty will drain their recruitment bases. We shall beat terrorism decisively and comprehensively," the President said.

The government also said that a Jordanian arrested by immigration agents a month ago in Zamboanga City was suspected of involvement in terror activity. *(Photos on Page A9)*

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo yesterday announced the capture of two Arab al-Qaida suspects. She said Jordanian Mahmoud Afif Abdeljalil, 36, was being interrogated, while Kuwaiti Jasem Alhasan had been deported.

She said the two men were detained within the past few weeks in Zamboanga City where they were allegedly in close contact with Abu Sayyaf bandits and other groups.

Domingo said Abdeljalil, who was arrested on Sept. 25, was the "point man" of Saudi Arabian Jamal Khalifah, who is a brother-in-law of Osama bin Laden, the leader of the al-Qaida international terror network.

Khalifah, who was married to a Filipina, was said to have co-founded the Abu Sayyaf and had put up several businesses in the country before leaving in 1994. Abdeljalil is said to have taken over the businesses.

The hunt for the militants of the Jemaah Islamiyah, blamed for a series of attacks in Southeast Asia and linked to Al-Qaida, was launched after the capture of Refke, said to be the JI's No. 2 man in the Philippines.

"We have exposed a large cell of the Jemaah Islamiyah," Ms Macapagal said, as a handcuffed Refke wearing an orange detainee's shirt stood behind her flanked by two soldiers. The spelling of his name was previously given as Taufik Rifqi.

No rest

"Government operatives are now pouring into Mindanao to search for his colleagues. We have already identified them and we have informed the Indonesian authorities. We will not rest until all the fugitives are accounted for," Ms Macapagal said.

Police said the 23-year-old Refke, an Indonesian, was JI's finance and liaison officer in Mindanao. A day after his arrest, police raided a suspected hideout being used by JI in Cotabato City and found an array of bomb-making equipment.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina said that on the President's instructions, a massive manhunt for Refke's colleagues, believed to number between 20 and 40, was under way.

On the run

Chief Supt. Arturo Lumibao, PNP deputy director for intelligence, said most of them were Indonesians and had already gone back to Indonesia.

PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane said the JI members in the country have been on the run since the death of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, a confessed JI bombmaker who escaped from a Camp Crame jail in July and was killed earlier this month in a gun battle in North Cotabato.

"Before they can launch any terrorist activities, they would have to consolidate their forces. But because they are on the run, they cannot do that," he said.

Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong said Refke faces deportation as he entered the country illegally five years ago.

But Lina said the police will block any move for deportation until they complete their investigation into JI's plans in the country.

He said charges of illegal possession of explosives will be filed against the Indonesian who is believed to have been involved in a series of bomb attacks in Mindanao, including one on a packed shopping mall in General Santos City last year that killed 15 people and wounded 70 others. He added that Refke had trained under Al-Ghozi.

Still mum

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, the military's information officer, said that after three weeks of intense interrogation, Refke has not admitted to any participation in bombings here. But he told investigators that the JI's top leader in the Philippines, Gul Kifli, was back in Indonesia.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, meanwhile, said the MILF should prove it has cut its ties to the Jemaah Islamiyah ahead of formal peace talks with the government.

The MILF leadership has always denied any links with the JI, "but perhaps action, more than words, would do more to disprove such links," he said. *With TJ Burgonio and Christian V. Esguerra*

Mayor assails 'double standard' in police force

COTABATO CITY—The sacking of the city police chief who had accused government agents of planting evidence was yesterday assailed as a rash decision and proof of a double standard in the Philippine National Police.

Mayor Muslimin Sema said Senior Supt. Perako Makakua was "a very good police officer who was honest enough to tell the truth."

The mayor said he would ask PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane to reconsider Makakua's relief. Otherwise, he said, his suspicion about a double standard in the police force would be confirmed.

Makakua had said the terror manuals and bomb-making materials seized in a raid Sunday on a suspected safe house of the Jemaah Islamiyah had been planted.

Ebdane announced Makakua's relief on Wednesday. He has been replaced by Supt. Ajijul Taradji.

But Sema pointed out that Chief Insp. Raulito Soyum, the police chief of Pigcawayan, North Cotabato, was not even reprimanded when he denied that Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi had been killed in a shootout in his area of jurisdiction.

"I cannot understand this," Sema said in a radio interview. "Makakua suffered, while another police officer who was also being honest remained at his post."

The mayor was referring to Soyum, who had denied that an encounter had occurred in Pigcawayan on Oct. 12 between government forces and an armed group that resulted in Al-Ghozi's death. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Senase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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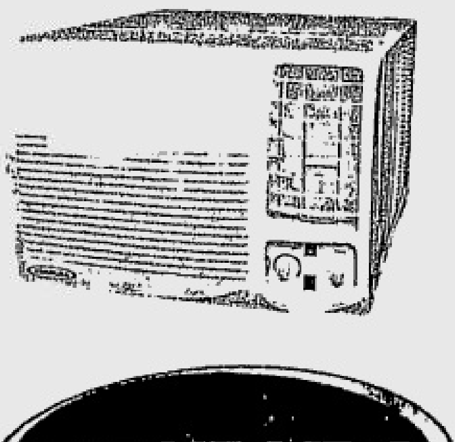

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Security top reason for letting Dato 'fly'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, *Manila*
and Connie E. Fernandez,
PDI Visayas Bureau

MALACAÑANG yesterday justified the use of the presidential helicopter by the President's youngest son, Dato Arroyo, to visit friends during a festival in Bacolod City last week.

The President's spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, adopted the explanation given to the INQUIRER by Col. Delfin Bangit, chief of the Presidential Security Group.

"If you read the statement of Colonel Bangit," Bunye said, "the overriding consideration was security." And this, he added, was "sufficient" explanation.

The PSG chief had said Dato's three-day trip was authorized. Arroyo attended the culminating activities of the city's weeklong MassKara Festival, arriving in Bacolod on Sunday.

Bunye also quoted Bangit as saying that members of the First Family were allowed to use the Bell 412 helicopter as a security measure.

Asked if the President had instructed her family not to abuse the privilege, Bunye said: "It doesn't seem to have been abused."

The incident was reminiscent of the controversy stirred by former presidential son, Jude Estrada, who used the presidential plane during his father's term for a private visit to Cagayan de Oro City, where he incurred unpaid food and hotel bills amounting to P60,000.

A ranking officer of the Philippine Air Force told the INQUIRER that Arroyo's trip cost the government approximately P80,000 in aviation fuel, based on a consumption estimate of P10,893 per hour. The figure did not include the aircraft's wear and tear, the officer said.

Had Arroyo and his two security men taken a commercial flight, the officer noted, even business class tickets would have cost much less.

A check with Philippine Airlines confirmed this. Airfare for Manila-Bacolod-Manila business class is about P7,400, inclusive of insurance and airport security fee. And unless the flight was delayed, they would have arrived in Bacolod in an hour.

Comelec suspends voter validation

WITH ONLY one week left for the registration of new voters, the Commission on Elections yesterday announced it was suspending for the meantime the validation of previously registered voters throughout the country.

Comelec spokes-person Ferdinand Rafanan said this was being done to concentrate the Comelec's resources on the registration of new voters. Validation involves updating the Comelec's data on previously registered voters.

"The suspension of the validation will last only until Oct. 31 and will start again on Nov. 2 up to Dec. 31," Rafanan said. *Martin P. Marfil*

Boncodin: RP can afford $1M

By Clarissa Batino
Business

ALTHOUGH cash-strapped, the government yesterday said it could afford the $1-million grant it has pledged to help reconstruct war-torn Iraq.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the government could "provide a budget" for the commitment to be made by Philippine representatives during a United States-led donors conference that opened yesterday in Madrid, Spain.

Supporters from nearly 60 countries are expected to attend the meet.

"The commitment is not necessarily in cash. It could be in kind," Boncodin said. The Philippines earlier sent a 177-member security force contingent.

She said the money would likely be tapped from the private sector, especially companies eyeing construction contracts in Iraq. Also, she said, there were existing Philippine businesses there that could help put the grant together. *With an AP report*

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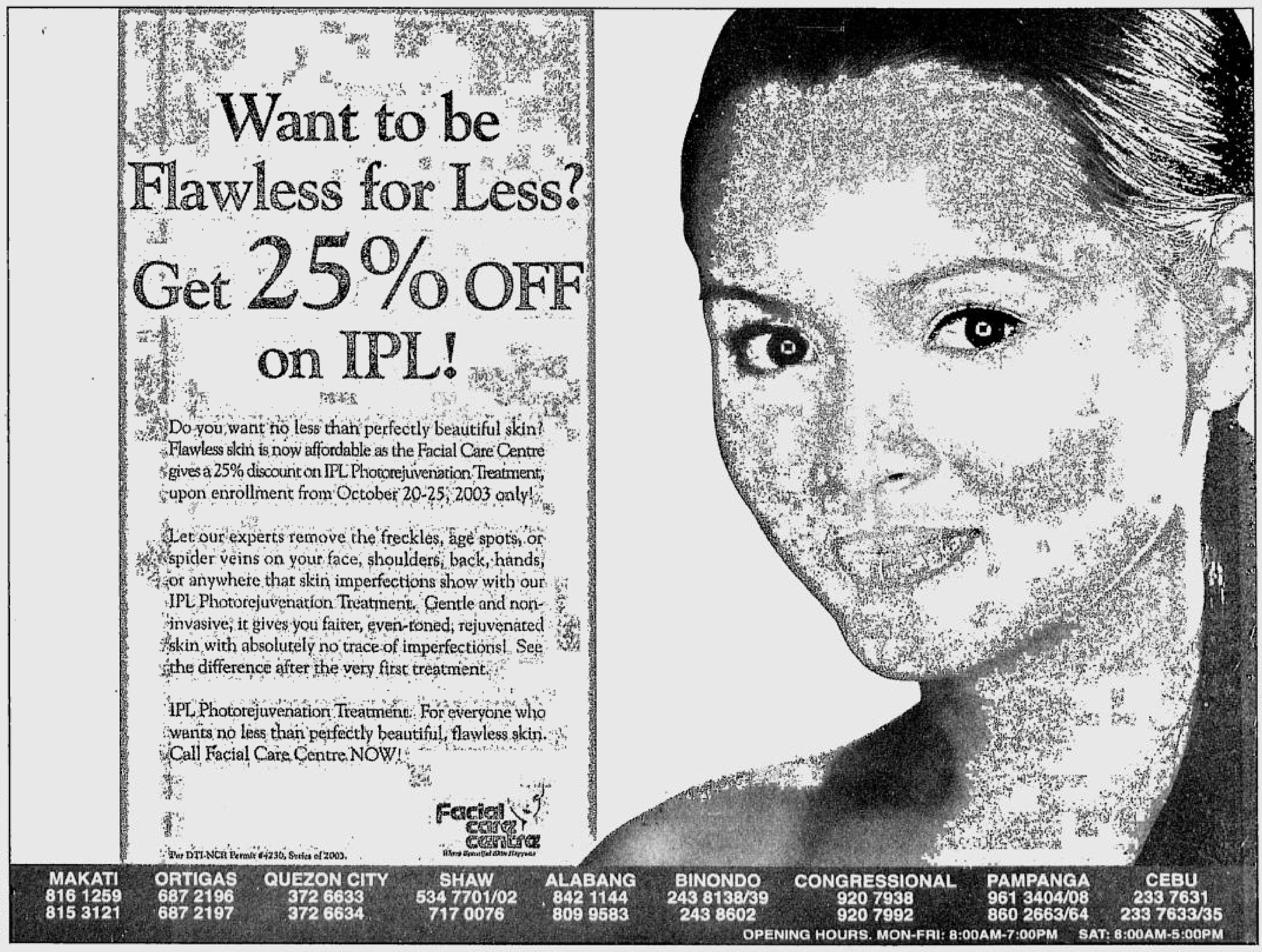

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Conjoined twins leave hospital, for now

NEW YORK—Carl and Clarence Aguirre, the 18-month-old conjoined twins from the Philippines who went through the first of several surgical procedures to separate them on Monday, left a Bronx hospital yesterday for a few weeks of rehabilitation before their next operation.

Carl and Clarence, who are joined at the tops of their heads, are recovering well from the surgery, the first of several that should end with their separation, according to a medical update from the Montefiore Medical Center in New York.

Their pediatrician, Dr. Robert Marion, said they left the children's hospital at Montefiore yesterday for the Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla, where they have lived with their mother, Arlene, since they arrived from the Philippines Sept. 10.

"The twins are returning to Blythedale to resume nutritional support and physical, occupational and speech therapy to help strengthen them for the surgeries to come," Marion said in a statement issued by Montefiore.

"Carl and Clarence came through their first operation wonderfully and all systems are 'go' with our plans," he said.

"The twins are alert and playing with their mother and the nursing staff," said Dr. David Staffenberg, chief of the pediatric plastic surgery division of Montefiore.

In the first of a series of operations last Monday to separate the twins, pediatric neurosurgeons and cranio-facial plastic surgeons, aided by a team of 20 specialists, removed a portion of the twins' skull so they could evaluate the network of shared blood vessels and the degree of fusion, the medical report said.

Surgeons then inserted a tissue expander into the boys' scalps to help stretch their skin and encourage new growth.

"This will ensure that there is enough skin available to completely cover the boys' scalps after their final separation," it added.

"We will begin to gradually fill the expanders in about three weeks so that we give the skin closure from [the] surgery time to heal," Staffenberg said.

"After that, we will add saline every three to five days depending on how well Carl and Clarence tolerate the procedures," he added.

Staffenberg said Carl and Clarence have to gain more weight and make further advances in their physical therapy while they are healing.

Over the next few months, surgeons will perform a series of procedures to gradually divide the twins' blood vessels in advance of a final separation procedure, the medical report said.

The cost of the entire procedure, totaling more than $2 million, and all other medical fees have been waived.

The twins' mother, who is from Silay City in Negros Occidental, is a single parent who had to give up her job as a company nurse in Manila to take care of the boys.

The Montefiore Medical Center and Blythedale Children's Hospital are covering the cost of the operations as well as pre- and post-care services. The physicians involved in the procedures are all waiving their fees.

The Philippine Airlines Foundation provided the airfare for the twins and their mother.

"At this time it is impossible to calculate the expected costs or charges of the medical care being provided by the Montefiore Medical Center. Overall costs would depend on the number of operations conducted, length of recovery and other factors. Costs associated with previous separation procedures have been upwards of $2 million," according to a Montefiore primer on the case. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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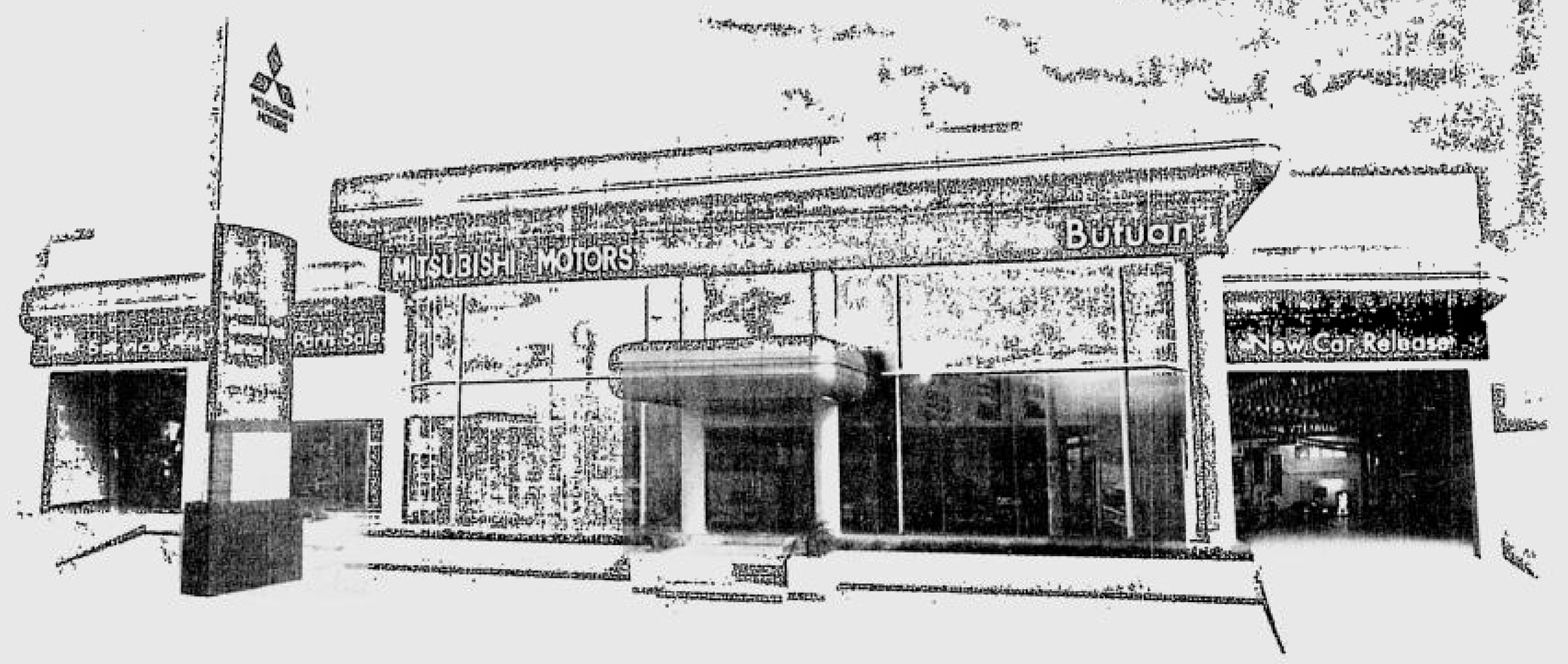

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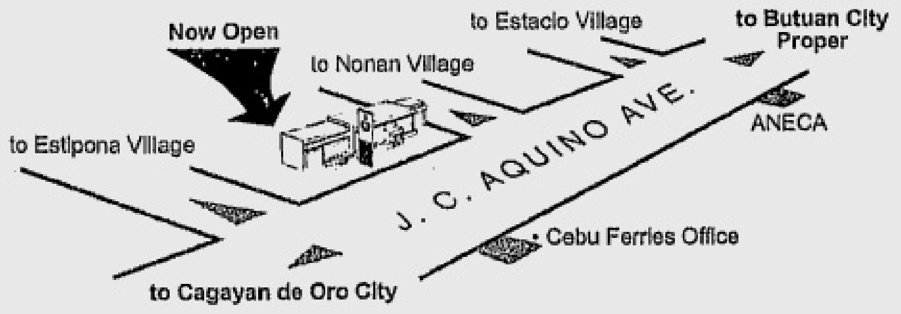

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Pinoy tot gets new liver from ma in Taipei

TAIPEI—The Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Taiwan yesterday conducted an operation to transfer part of a liver from a Filipino mother to her ailing baby son, the hospital said.

The 24-year-old mother, Baby Jane Salle, and her 14-month-old son Nicolai Magtibay were wheeled into the operating room at about 8 a.m., a hospital spokesperson said.

"Doctors planned to transplant 130 grams of the mother's liver to her son" during the operation, estimated to last 12 hours, the spokesperson said.

Magtibay, who suffers from biliary atresia, or the congenital absence or closure of the ducts that drain bile from the liver, would likely die within two years if he does not receive a liver transplant, a doctor said.

While saying the next three to five days would be critical for Magtibay, Chang Yuanping, chief of the hospital's social service section, said the baby stands a good chance of recovery, giving the hospital's surgery record.

"Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital reports the highest survival rate regarding living liver transplant," Chang said.

The hospital has conducted 151 similar operations—two of them from the Philippines—with 96 percent of the liver recipients surviving for at least five years.

To finance the operation's cost, the baby's father, Malvin Magtibay, raised some P4 million from his countrymen by handing out 25,000 copies of leaflets in the country early this year. *AFP*

Rise in unwanted pregnancies seen

THERE COULD be a sharp rise in unwanted pregnancies in the country after the government diverted P70 million ($1.5 million) allocated for contraceptives to natural family planning, a United Nations official warned Thursday.

The money had been allocated for contraceptives under then President Joseph Estrada in 2000 but after he was ousted the following year, his successor President Macapagal-Arroyo, diverted the funds to support natural family planning.

"They used the money for natural family planning instead of contraceptives," said Florence Tayzon, assistant representative of the United Nations Population Fund in Manila.

Tayzon warned that the continuing failure to provide contraceptives to Filipino women would inevitably lead to more illegal abortions and even a rise in maternal deaths.

"We foresee a larger number of abortions forthcoming," said Tayzon, remarking that when women did not have access to contraceptives, there was usually a rise in unsafe abortions and this in turn resulted in deaths.

Lack of access to birth control devices has contributed to the Philippine population growth rate of 2.36 percent, one of the highest in Asia, UN officials warned.

Critics have blamed the country's population problem on the dominant Roman Catholic church which lobbies against the use of artificial contraceptives and allows only "natural family planning" techniques like the rhythm method.

Ms Macapagal, a devout Catholic, has said her population policy would focus on "natural family planning" methods but would still allow couples the option of using birth control devices.

Tayzon warned that a 1998 study found that there were 400,000 abortions in the Philippines annually even though abortions are illegal.

She also warned that maternal mortality stood at 172 cases per 100,000 people, also one of the highest in Asia.

"If they don't have access to contraceptives (some of them) will resort to abortion. If women go into abortion, you have a higher risk of women dying," Tayzon said.

She said studies showed the proportion of fertile Filipino women with access to contraceptives dropped from 49.5 percent in 2001 to 48.8 percent in 2002.

Another concern were findings that more and more adolescent Filipinos were engaging in premarital sex, raising the risk of unwanted pregnancies, Tayzon said. *AFP*

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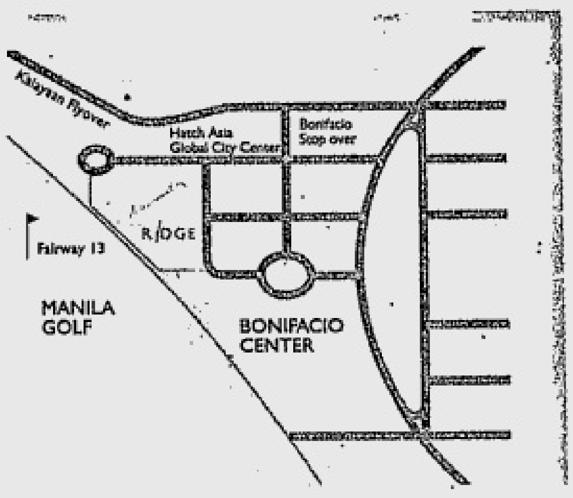
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RP sure winner of UN Security Council seat today

UNITED NATIONS, New York—The UN General Assembly is poised to elect the Philippines, Algeria, Benin, Brazil and Romania on Thursday [Friday in Manila] to highly coveted seats on the Security Council.

The five are unopposed to take the five vacancies that will open up on the 15-nation council on Jan. 1, said diplomats here.

Earlier, it appeared Benin and Mauritania would contest one of the five seats, but Mauritania dropped out of the race, leaving Benin in the clear.

The Security Council is responsible for international peace and security, and its decisions can be legally binding on all 191 UN members.

Candidates are elected for two-year terms and are often unopposed, as they are selected in advance by UN regional groupings by rotation.

Algeria, Benin and the Philippines have been endorsed by the African and Asian regional groups to replace Cameroon, Guinea and Syria, respectively, whose terms end Dec. 31.

Romania has been earmarked by Eastern European states to replace Bulgaria, and Brazil will take over from Mexico at the behest of Latin American and Caribbean governments. *Reuters*

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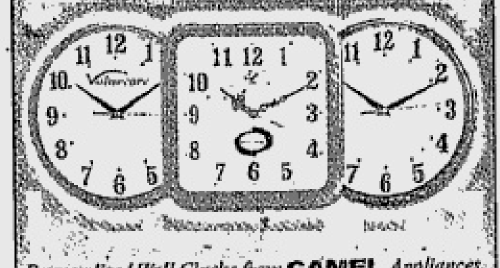

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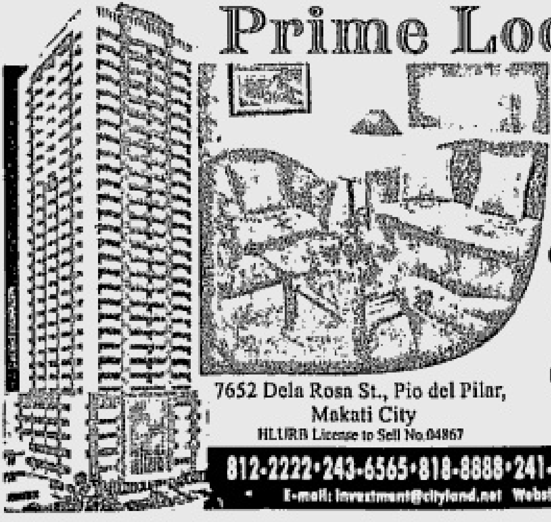

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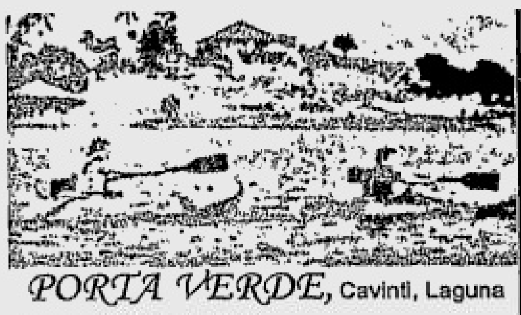

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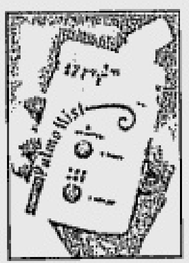

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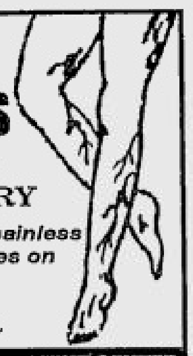

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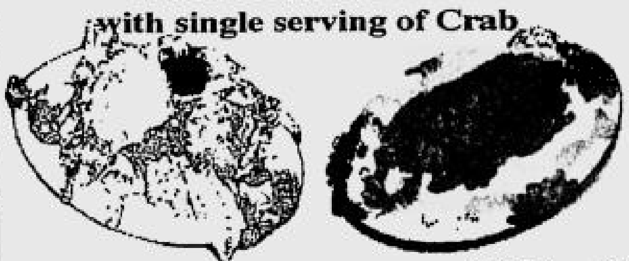

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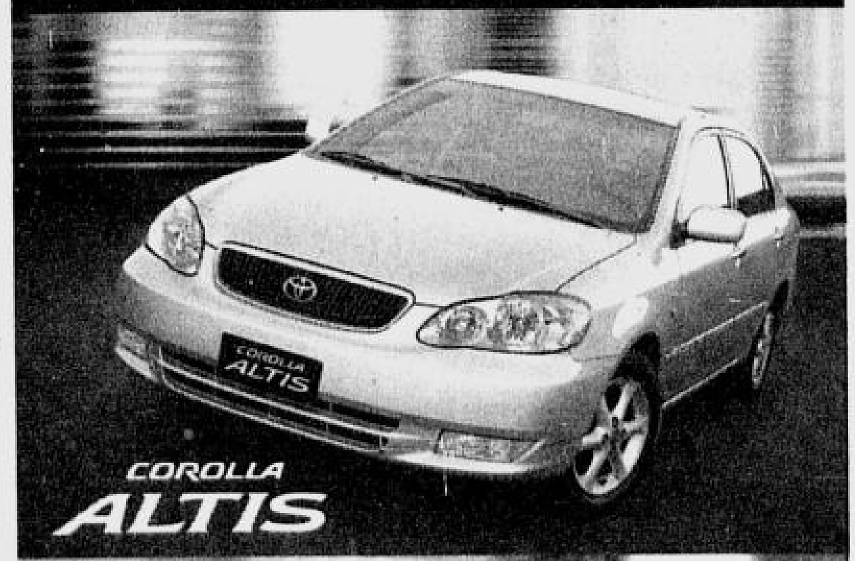

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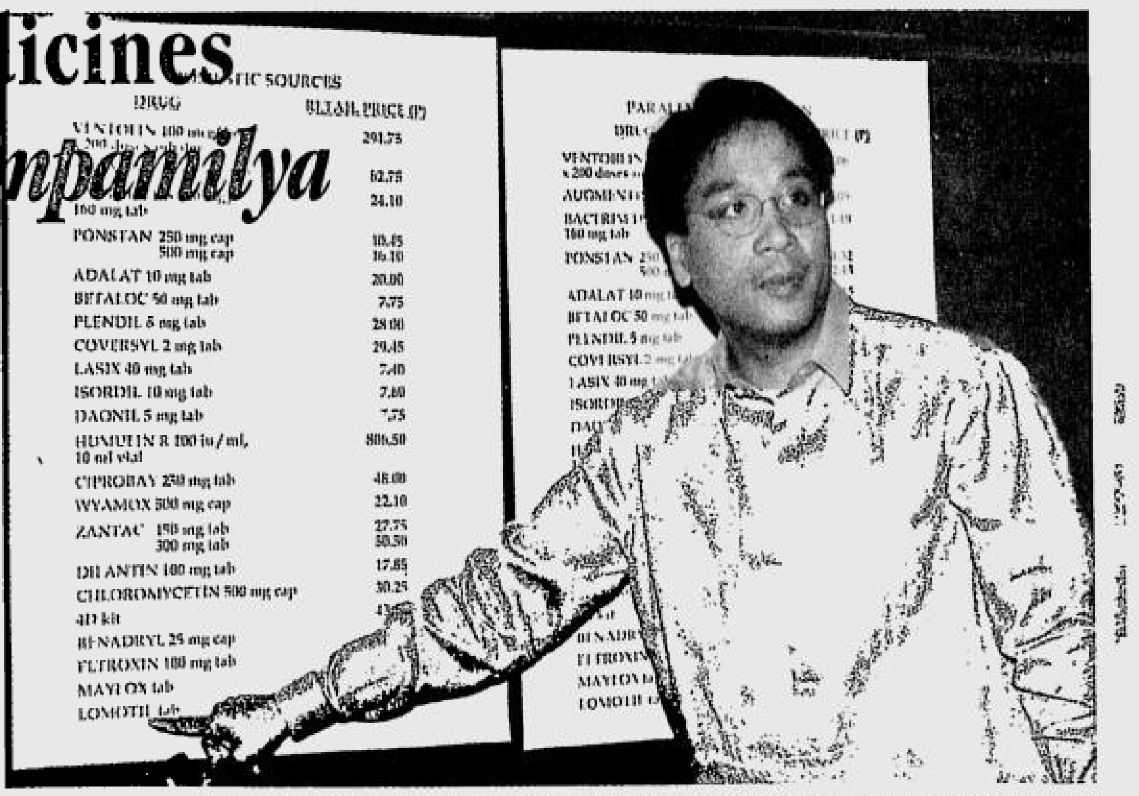
ROXAS orders expansion of medicines list under *Presyong Tama, Gamot Pampamilya*



GAMOT PAMPAMILYA. Bringing down the cost of medicine had been a personal crusade for Sec. Mar Roxas even while he was still a Representative for Capiz and later as Majority Floor Leader. This became a reality when he was appointed DTI Secretary in early 2000 when he personally conceived and launched the Presyong Tama, Gamot Pampamilya Program. Sec. Roxas explains the program when it was launched in April, 2000.

Notes rise in demand, wider distribution on program's 3rd year

Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas has directed the Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC) to look into the immediate expansion of the list of branded medicines available under the *Presyong Tama, Gamot Pampamilya* program. Sec. Roxas said he has been receiving many requests from various sectors for DTI to import more medicines that can be sold to the public at affordable prices.

A growing number of NGOs, foundations, cooperatives and senior citizens groups have expressed their interest to purchase medicines and participate as outlets of the program. According to Sec. Roxas, around 120 local government units (LGUs) have already enlisted in the program and over 10 government agencies have purchased essential medicines from PITC, but the distribution network still needs augmenting.

To date, a number of NGOs have already signed agreements with the DTI to act as distribution outlets of *Presyong Tama* medicines, such as the Integrated Midwives' Association of the Philippines (IMAP), Cagayan de Oro Federation of Senior Citizens' Association (CAFESCA), and lately another 10 NGOs in Negros.

"By expanding the list of medicines available under the program, the government can better address the health needs of our citizens. If we can offer relatively cheap medicines, then more Filipinos can obtain effective treatment, cover their medicine needs and maintain lifetime medication," Sec. Roxas said.

In April 2000, Sec. Roxas initiated the government's parallel importation program to bring into the country high quality, lower-priced medicines through PITC, a DTI-attached agency of which he is Chairman. Dubbed *Presyong Tama, Gamot Pampamilya*, the program involves making available to the poor branded medicines at prices that could go as much as 87% lower than current retail levels. Sec. Roxas conceived of the program to promote better public access to healthcare and at the same time boost efforts to lower prices of medicines nationwide to benefit consumers.

"We believe that the most important accomplishment of this project so far, is that it was able to illustrate that lowering the cost of medicine is possible. Commonly prescribed branded drugs sold under *Presyong Tama, Gamot Pampamilya* are anywhere from 27-87 percent cheaper than those distributed by the multi-national companies," said Sec. Roxas. **(See Table Below.)**

The Philippines, Sec. Roxas noted, has the highest medicine prices in Asia, next only to Japan. "I cannot understand why in some cases, medicines are sold at prices ten times higher here than in other countries in the region. They were developed and manufactured by the same companies," he said.

Under the program, it was noted, leading anti-bacterial brands such as Bactrim, Ciprobay, Augmentin and Ceporex can be purchased at prices as much as 81% lower than those in the retail market. Maintenance medicines for hypertension like Adalat Retard, Dilzem, Tenormin and Betaloc are sold in *Presyong Tama* outlets at an average of 67% savings.

Other medicines for patients with diabetes, as well as for those suffering from high cholesterol-related ailments, can be bought at around 57% lower than retail drugstore outlets. Meanwhile, those afflicted with asthma can purchase the popular Ventolin and Bricanyl bronchodilator drugs at close to 70% less than retail prices.

The current list of medicines available under the *Presyong Tama* program includes 25 brands of medicines for ailments that are among the leading causes of sickness and death in the Philippines. Unfortunately, many Filipinos are still unable to seek treatment as medicine prices are very prohibitive. Multinational companies sell their brands at exorbitant prices, oftentimes, not within the reach of ordinary Filipinos.

DTI has received requests from many groups to increase the number of medicines available under the program. Several LGUs, hospitals and NGOs have reiterated their call for DTI to include other brands for hypertension, diabetes and heart ailments, in addition to what are currently sold under the program, as prices in the market are extremely prohibitive. DTI is currently reviewing an expanded list that will benefit more consumers.

"It is unfortunate that many poor Filipinos who suffer from these diseases and ailments are unable to gain access even to basic medication," said Sec. Roxas.

"Because prices are very high, most of them cannot even purchase maintenance medicines, so they are just left untreated, or worse, die without having even received medication which could have saved their lives. *'Presyong Tama'* is our response to the need to provide the public with easier access to low-priced medicines," Sec. Roxas added.

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GROWING NETWORK. The Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines, with some 60,000 members, nationwide, recently joined the national network of Presyong Tama outlets and distributors. Photo taken during the signing of the IMAP-DTI/PITC MOA were IMAP president Alice Sanz Delagente (2nd from left); Sec. Mar Roxas; and, PITC president Anthony Abad.

WTO picks right to public health over IPR

For favoring developing nations in breaking their deadlock over intellectual property protection and public health, Sec. Roxas commended the member governments of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

WTO members failed to meet a self-imposed December 2002 deadline to resolve the impasse on access to essential medicines for poor countries and restrictive provisions of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), but they eventually agreed on legal changes that make it easier for those countries to import cheaper generics made under compulsory licensing, if they are unable to manufacture the medicines themselves. That decision settles the one remaining piece of unfinished business on intellectual property and health that was left over from the WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha in November 2001.

"We ensured that our sovereign right to determine our public health needs would not be diminished or limited and that we will not be disadvantaged by the WTO agreement on intellectual property protection," Sec. Roxas said.

"We have much disease and sickness yet the poverty in our midst prevents many among us from getting the medicine that they sorely need. Thus, for us, the issue of access to medicine is also an issue of affordability," he added.

"All our work has been focused on facilitating and ensuring access to and affordability of medicine for our and the world's poor," said Sec. Roxas who has been at the forefront in this issue since this was taken up in Doha.

"The present decision augurs well for the *Presyong Tama, Gamot Pampamilya* program that advocates parallel drug importation to help lower the high medicine prices in the local market to more reasonable and affordable levels," said Sec. Roxas.

"The program is a measure against opportunistic pricing where the poor are at a disadvantage," he added.

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PRESYONG TAMA SA NAKATATANDA. The Cagayan de Oro Federation of Senior Citizen's Associations (CAFESCA) signed up as Presyong Tama, Gamot Pampamilya partner for Northern Mindanao. Elderly members of CAFESCA show profuse thanks and appreciation for Sec. Mar's efforts to make life easier for them — especially in affordable health care.

PRESYONG TAMA
GAMOT PAMPAMILYA

Right price of medicines: a DTI priority

Parallel imports by the government have cut the retail price of some medicines by as much as two-thirds.

DTI Sec. Mar Roxas, whose idea it was to bring in the same brands of medicine that the same manufacturers were selling for much less in neighboring countries, started with a modest "test buy" worth P20-Million at the program's inception in April, 2000.

Faced with stiff resistance — the market for prescribed medicine is estimated to be P20-Billion, the entire local drugs industry is P60-Billion — *Presyong Tama, Gamot Pampamilya* nonetheless posted substantial progress, pushing sales to close to P100 Million in a year's time, penetrating markets in 71 LGU's and a number of NGO's then.

As if to assure a drug industry distressed by the stark contrasts in prices, Sec. Roxas categorically stated: "The program is not meant to supplant what is otherwise a private sector endeavor." Surely, the P60-Billion industry had no reason to be beleaguered. The volume of importation under the *Presyong Tama* Program was a miniscule 0.16% of the total drug market.

Sec. Roxas is quick to plead, however: "In the case of pharmaceuticals, and for many basic commodities for that matter, policy makers should consistently exert efforts to break the cartel-like behavior of the leading suppliers." Businesses, he adds, have a "social mandate to be fair to the people who patronize their products and who infuse millions-worth of profits to the drug companies annually."

The branded drugs distributed under the *Presyong Tama, Gamot Pampamilya* program are made available at prices significantly lower than what are available in the market. "These are exactly the same drugs, the same brands," Sec. Roxas said.

The trade secretary's crusade for affordable medicine is carried through to the WTO. "We asserted the right of the sovereign states to override patents and have open access to cheaper generic drugs," Sec. Roxas said.

At the Doha development round, he reported, we agreed that the need to address public health issues supersedes any other interests.

"I hope that pharmaceutical companies would also arrive at the same conclusion and do their part in making quality medicines affordable to the common Filipino," Sec. Roxas added.

It is my sincere hope that both the government and the private sector would partner in securing a better, more affordable health care for the Filipinos," he said.

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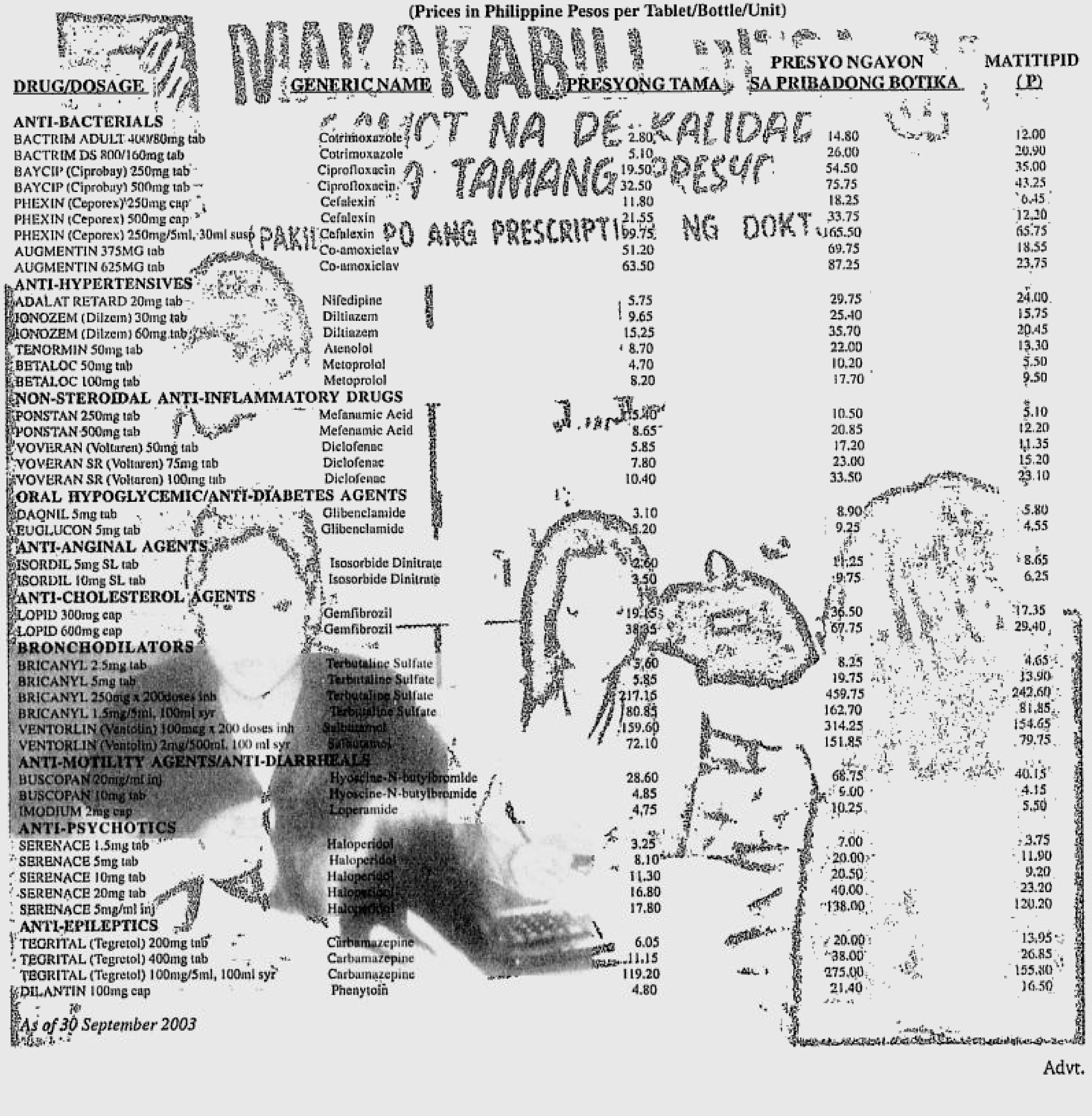
PRESYONG TAMA, GAMOT PAMPAMILYA
(Prices in Philippine Pesos per Tablet/Bottle/Unit)



DRUG/DOSAGE	GENERIC NAME	PRESYONG TAMA	PRESYO NGAYON SA PRIBADONG BOTIKA	MATITIPID (P)
ANTI-BACTERIALS				
BACTRIM ADULT 400/80mg tab	Cotrimoxazole	2.80	14.80	12.00
BACTRIM DS 800/160mg tab	Cotrimoxazole	5.10	26.00	20.90
BAYCIP (Ciprobay) 250mg tab	Ciprofloxacin	19.50	54.50	35.00
BAYCIP (Ciprobay) 500mg tab	Ciprofloxacin	32.50	75.75	43.25
PHEXIN (Ceporex) 250mg cap	Cefalexin	11.80	18.25	6.45
PHEXIN (Ceporex) 500mg cap	Cefalexin	21.55	33.75	12.20
PHEXIN (Ceporex) 250mg/5ml, 30ml susp	Cefalexin	99.75	165.50	65.75
AUGMENTIN 375MG tab	Co-amoxiclav	51.20	69.75	18.55
AUGMENTIN 625MG tab	Co-amoxiclav	63.50	87.25	23.75
ANTI-HYPERTENSIVES				
ADALAT RETARD 20mg tab	Nifedipine	5.75	29.75	24.00
IONOZEM (Dilzem) 30mg tab	Diltiazem	9.65	25.40	15.75
IONOZEM (Dilzem) 60mg tab	Diltiazem	15.25	35.70	20.45
TENORMIN 50mg tab	Atenolol	8.70	22.00	13.30
BETALOC 50mg tab	Metoprolol	4.70	10.20	5.50
BETALOC 100mg tab	Metoprolol	8.20	17.70	9.50
NON-STEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS				
PONSTAN 250mg tab	Mefenamic Acid	5.40	10.50	5.10
PONSTAN 500mg tab	Mefenamic Acid	8.65	20.85	12.20
VOVERAN (Voltaren) 50mg tab	Diclofenac	5.85	17.20	11.35
VOVERAN SR (Voltaren) 75mg tab	Diclofenac	7.80	23.00	15.20
VOVERAN SR (Voltaren) 100mg tab	Diclofenac	10.40	33.50	23.10
ORAL HYPOGLYCEMIC/ANTI-DIABETES AGENTS				
DAONIL 5mg tab	Glibenclamide	3.10	8.90	5.80
EUGLUCON 5mg tab	Glibenclamide	5.20	9.25	4.55
ANTI-ANGINAL AGENTS				
ISORDIL 5mg SL tab	Isosorbide Dinitrate	2.60	11.25	8.65
ISORDIL 10mg SL tab	Isosorbide Dinitrate	3.50	9.75	6.25
ANTI-CHOLESTEROL AGENTS				
LOPID 300mg cap	Gemfibrozil	19.15	36.50	17.35
LOPID 600mg cap	Gemfibrozil	38.35	67.75	29.40
BRONCHODILATORS				
BRICANYL 2.5mg tab	Terbutaline Sulfate	3.60	8.25	4.65
BRICANYL 5mg tab	Terbutaline Sulfate	5.85	19.75	13.90
BRICANYL 250mg x 200doses inh	Terbutaline Sulfate	217.15	459.75	242.60
BRICANYL 1.5mg/5ml, 100ml syr	Terbutaline Sulfate	80.85	162.70	81.85
VENTORLIN (Ventolin) 100mcg x 200 doses inh	Salbutamol	159.60	314.25	154.65
VENTORLIN (Ventolin) 2mg/500ml, 100 ml syr	Salbutamol	72.10	151.85	79.75
ANTI-MOTILITY AGENTS/ANTI-DIARRHEALS				
BUSCOPAN 20mg/ml inj	Hyoscine-N-butylbromide	28.60	68.75	40.15
BUSCOPAN 10mg tab	Hyoscine-N-butylbromide	4.85	9.00	4.15
IMODIUM 2mg cap	Loperamide	4.75	10.25	5.50
ANTI-PSYCHOTICS				
SERENACE 1.5mg tab	Haloperidol	3.25	7.00	3.75
SERENACE 5mg tab	Haloperidol	8.10	20.00	11.90
SERENACE 10mg tab	Haloperidol	11.30	20.50	9.20
SERENACE 20mg tab	Haloperidol	16.80	40.00	23.20
SERENACE 5mg/ml inj	Haloperidol	17.80	138.00	120.20
ANTI-EPILEPTICS				
TEGRITAL (Tegretol) 200mg tab	Carbamazepine	6.05	20.00	13.95
TEGRITAL (Tegretol) 400mg tab	Carbamazepine	11.15	38.00	26.85
TEGRITAL (Tegretol) 100mg/5ml, 100ml syr	Carbamazepine	119.20	275.00	155.80
DILANTIN 100mg cap	Phenytoin	4.80	21.40	16.50

As of 30 September 2003

Advt.

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WAR ON TERROR GAINS

VAL HANDUMON/ERIK ARAZAS

At left, President Macapagal presents to media Indonesian Taufek Refke, said to be the second in command of the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terror group. At right, Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo questions Jordanian Mahmoud Afif Abdeljalil, suspected of working with Osama bin Laden's brother-in-law in the al-Qaida international terrorist network. ***(Story on Page A2.)***

Energy body helping Meralco get around SC ruling–Enrile

FORMER Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to sack the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) headed by chair Manuel Sanchez for "subverting" the Supreme Court decision ordering Meralco to refund more than P28 billion it had charged subscribers to cover income tax liabilities.

Enrile cited the ERC order dated May 30, 2003 which stated: "The Commission recognizes that if income tax is not allowed as a recoverable item, then the 12-percent cap on rate of return established in current jurisprudence may no longer be reasonable." The order proceeded to allow Meralco a 15.5-percent rate of return.

The former legislator scored the ERC for "cleverly devising" its so-called "Weighted Cost of Capital" to justify the new rate of return, which he said was in clear violation of the cap applicable to the distribution utility firm.

Enrile also scored Sanchez for admitting that the ERC was allowing the collection of 10 centavos per kWh in deferred purchased power adjustment (PPA) charges.

In a press statement protesting Enrile's claim that Meralco was collecting 10 centavos per kWh more than the P3.30 per kWh approved by the ERC, Sanchez said: "The P3.30 per kWh is not by itself the approved generation rate. He (Enrile) failed to account for the 10 centavos deferred PPA charges allowed by ERC to be collected from end-users in its orders dated Dec. 19, 2002 and May 12, 2003, which brings the total to P3.40 per kWh."

Enrile reiterated his allegation that Meralco was also charging its 16.14-percent systems loss to consumers, noting that this was way above the 9.5 percent allowed under current regulations.

"...Enrile's call for my resignation does not deserve any response," Sanchez said. "(His) disinformation does not serve the public any good."

"I have reiterated in various fora that Enrile's assertions are wrong. I don't want to engage in a long-running debate," he added.

Sanchez said he himself had given Enrile the data the former senator had asked for, but the latter "twisted the information." *With Ronnel W. Domingo*

Cops, AFP join forces to probe Paco arms cache

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE WESTERN Police District is coordinating with the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to determine the source of the high-powered firearms and ammunition seized from the residence of a suspected Magdalo group supporter in Paco, Manila.

The cases for the bullets reportedly had government markings.

WPD spokesperson Chief Insp. Gerry Agunod said Isafp agents visited police headquarters yesterday to inspect the cache discovered in a unit at the LTS Condominium owned by Marine Capt. (reserve) Leonardo V. Sen.

Sen was arrested along with five others after he allegedly fired his guns indiscriminately on the balcony of his residence and then at responding policemen Tuesday night.

"The Isafp agents will see if the firearms and ammunition came from their armory," Agunod told reporters yesterday.

He said they will also look for the people whose names were on the outside of the steel boxes that held bullets for an M-16 rifle.

On one of the boxes was written "To Capt. Pala," and beneath it, "From 1Lt. Rabara." On one side of the box was written "c/o Capt. Labajo."

Meanwhile, police have filed charges of alarm and scandal, assault upon a person in authority and illegal possession of firearms and ammunition against Sen and Edward Reyes, 29; driver Reynaldo Llanas, 27, both of Cainta, Rizal; stay-in condominium caretaker Jay de Guzman, 38, and Pia Ragonron, 18, and Daniela Santos, 23.

Fiscal Jose Bautista upheld the charges filed by the police and recommended the highest bail for Sen—P80,000 per high-powered firearm and P60,000 per round of ammunition.

Five high-powered firearms, six short firearms and almost 3,000 rounds of live ammunition were found in Sen's condominium.

Major shake-up looms at PNP

By Nelson F. Flores

A TOP-LEVEL revamp is in the offing at the Philippine National Police.

Sources at the Department of Interior and Local Government said the revamp would be implemented as soon as major reforms are put in place.

According to the sources who requested anonymity, the imminent reforms were prompted by the PNP's dismal performance since July, when Indonesian terrorist Fathur Roman al-Ghozi and two suspected Abu Sayyaf members escaped from police headquarters in Camp Crame. The rising incidence of crime, particularly bank robberies, was also an aggravating factor, the sources said.

It was not clear if PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. was included in the proposed revamp.

"He is a presidential appointee. Only the President can remove him from his post," said one of the sources.

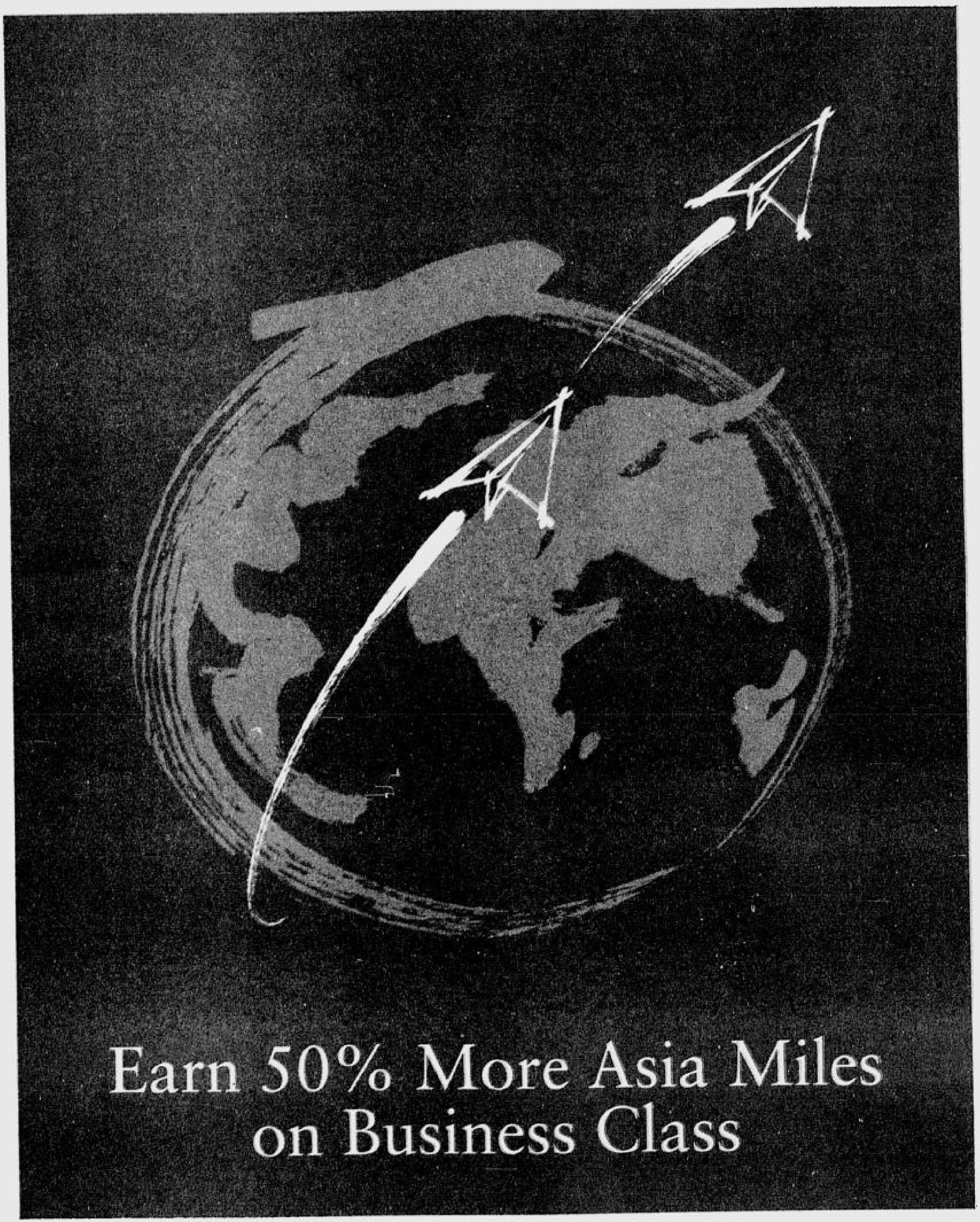
The reforms would strengthen the chain of command, and clarify responsibilities and accountabilities, the source added.

DILG Secretary Jose Lina Jr. confirmed that reforms were afoot, but denied there would be a major revamp. He said the reforms would focus on command responsibility, or officers' accountability in their areas of jurisdiction.

Citing an earlier memorandum issued by former President Fidel Ramos to the PNP and other law enforcement agencies, Lina said a commander was required to closely monitor, supervise, direct, coordinate and control the overall performance of his subordinates, and that he could be held administratively accountable for his men's infractions.

Meanwhile, Lina said the PNP should be lauded for the successful execution of security measures during the state visit of US President George W. Bush.

Lina said the PNP crowd control unit's exercise of maximum tolerance toward rallyists protesting Bush's presence was also commendable.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2677, Series of 2003

US willing to sign Nokor security guarantee

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE—US President George W. Bush said on Wednesday the United States and its partners were all willing to sign a document declaring "we won't attack you" so long as North Korea agrees to abandon its nuclear ambitions.

North Korea has dismissed the US offer of multilateral security guarantees as laughable.

"I guess they're trying to stand up to the five nations that are now uniting in convincing North Korea to disarm and my only reaction is we'll continue to send a very clear message to the North Koreans," Bush said in Bali, Indonesia, before flying to Australia.

Speaking with reporters later aboard Air Force One, Bush said the United States and its partners in the negotiations were "all willing to sign some sort of document—not a treaty—that says, 'We won't attack you.' But he needs to abandon his nuclear program in a verifiable way."

In a commentary published late on Tuesday, the communist North's official KCNA news agency said Pyongyang wanted a bilateral treaty with the United States—a reference to its desire for a non-aggression pact Washington has ruled out.

During a Bangkok summit of Asia-Pacific leaders that ended on Tuesday, Bush significantly shifted policy by saying he was sharing ideas on how to give North Korea security guarantees short of a non-aggression treaty. All 20 other summit leaders backed this stance.

North Korea was not present because it is not a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum. But it lost little time in shooting down the idea.

"We have asked for the United States to stop its hostile policy and a bilateral treaty between North Korea and the United States, and not for some sort of security guarantee," said KCNA in a Korean-language commentary.

"It's laughable and doesn't deserve even any consideration that the United States gives a security guarantee on the condition that we drop our nuclear development."

Bush defended the Apec discussions at a news conference on this Indonesian island, saying: "We had a really good visit at Apec about how best to resolve the North Korean issue peacefully, how best to convince the North Koreans to disarm, at least abandon their nuclear ambitions, nuclear weapons ambitions."

Asked about reports of at least one North Korean short-range missile test during Apec, Bush said that was not helpful, adding in an apparent reference to North Korean leader Kim Jong-il:

"... he wanted to have dialogue. We're having dialogue, and he wanted a security agreement and we're willing to advance a multiparty security agreement, assuming that he is willing to abandon his nuclear weapons designs and programs."

Reuters

ELECTRIC SERVICE IN THESE AREAS WILL BE MOMENTARILY INTERRUPTED FOR FACILITIES UPGRADING AND OTHER LINE WORK.

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

POSTED ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE

100 1903-2003 MERALCO

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2003

QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 3:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT DILIMAN 43VU

Along BF Road and Sampaguita St. from near Commonwealth Ave. to and including Doña Juana Subd., Mapayapa Village I, II & III, Holy Spirit School Cpd., FEU Compound, Ferndale Village, Pingkian Village, Silver Land Village, Isadora Hills, Granwood Villas, Kapalaran Subd. in Bgys. Holy Spirit and Pasong Tamo.

REASON: Reconductoring of existing primary lines to give way to the expansion of Kaybiga feeders along Narra St. in Mapayapa Village.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2003

BULACAN (PANDI AND ANGAT)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT ANGAT 33YT

Along Encanto Road from Meralco-Angat substation to Siling Matanda Road in Angat.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT ANGAT 33YT

Pandi town proper, Bgys. Malibong Matanda, Manggahan, Lalakhan, Malibong Bata, Bunsuran and Pulang Lupa including General Milling Corp. Farms, Shell Gas Station and Pinong Road in Pandi.

REASON: Pole dressing and pole erection in preparation for partial conversion of circuit Angat 33YT from 7.6 kV to 20 kV system.

MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 3:30PM AND 4:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT FORBES PARK 18VC

North Forbes Park including Campbridge Circle, Anahan, Buendia Ext., Talisay, Kawayan, Tangile and Jacaranda Roads.

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 4:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT FORBES PARK 18VC

Along Harvard Road from Manila Golf and Country Club Guardhouse to and including Guingua St. and Clubhouse of Manila Golf and Country Club in North Forbes Park.

REASON: Replacement of rotted pole inside Manila Golf and Country Club in North Forbes Park, Makati City.

MONDAY TO TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27-28, 2003

CALOOCAN CITY (NOVALICHES)

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (MON.,10/27/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 3:30AM AND 4:00AM (TUE.,10/28/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT NOVALICHES 42YJ

Along Old Zabarte Road from near Kingswood St. to and including Camarin Subd. Phases A, B & C in Bgy. Camarin.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (MON.,10/27/03) AND 4:00AM (TUE.,10/28/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT NOVALICHES 42YJ

Along Old Zabarte Road from near Camarin to and including La Forteza Subd. in Bgy. Camarin.

REASON: Replacement of rotten pole along Old Zabarte in Novaliches, Caloocan City.

MANDALUYONG CITY AND MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (MON.,10/27/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM (TUE.,10/28/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS ROCKWELL 412VV AND 421VV

Portion of J.P. Rizal Ave. from MERALCO-Rockwell substation near Estrella St. to near P. Roxas St. ,in Makati City.

Along Coronado, Rev. Aglipay (F. Blumentritt), P. Cruz, F. Ortigas Sts. in Makati City from E. Pantaleon St. to V. B. Aquino (Acacia) Lane including Filipino Pipe and Foundry, Integral Chemical Corp., Eternit, Liberty Flour Mill, Cillhomes, Mandaluyong High School in Bgys. Hulo, Old Zaniga and New Zaniga, Poblacion , Mabini-J. Rizal and San Jose in Mandaluyong City.

Portion of Barangka Drive from near Pantaleon St. to San Rafael St. including National Mental Hospital.

Portion of Boni Ave. from Paraiso St. to Basilan St. including Maysilo and San Francisco Sts. in Bgy. Plainview, Mandaluyong City.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (MON.,10/27/03) AND 5:00AM (TUE.,10/28/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS ROCKWELL 412VV AND 421VV

Portion of J.P. Rizal Ave. from MERALCO-Rockwell substation near Estrella St. to near P. Roxas St. including Atty. Villena St. in Makati City.

Portion of Pantaleon St. from Coronado St. to near Barangka Drive including Apollo Steel Cpd. in Bgy. Barangka Ibaba, Mandaluyong City.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along J.P. Rizal Ave. in Bgy. Poblacion, Makati and Pantaleon St. in Bgy. Barangka, Mandaluyong City.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2003

MANILA (TONDO)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 6:00AM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT TUTUBAN 45VT

The whole of Tutuban Center Mall I & II.

REASON: Preventive maintenance works inside Meralco-Tutuban substation.

QUEZON (TAYABAS)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 3:30PM AND 4:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TAYABAS 48ZY-BOTOCAN 42D

Portion of Doroteo Nadres St. from MERALCO-Tayabas substation in Bgy. Matino to near Dela Torre Subd. in Sitio Luad, Poblacion.

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 4:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TAYABAS 48ZY-BOTOCAN 42D

Portion of Tayabas-Lucban Road from near bridge in Sitio Lanzonesan to near Dela Torre Subd. in Poblacion including Bgys. Dapdap and Camaysa.

REASON: Stringing of newly installed poles along Tayabas-Lucban Road at Bgys. Dapdap and Camaysa due to DPWH road widening project.

BULACAN (SAN JOSE DEL MONTE)

BETWEEN 8:30AM AND 1:30PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT GAYA-GAYA 34YS

Carissa Homes Phases 5-A, 5-B, 4-A and 4-B including Vitarich Cobbs and Sysco Construction Group Inc. in San Jose del Monte.

REASON: Replacement of substandard insulators and reconstruction/resagging of primary lines in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

CAVITE (TAGAYTAY CITY AND ALFONSO)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TAGAYTAY 32XS

Along Tagaytay Ridge Road from Tagaytay Microtropo Station to Cavite-Batangas boundary including Air Traffic Office, Bgys. Neogan, Bagong Tubig in Tagaytay City; Bgys. Sicat, Luksuhin, Mangas, Sulsugin, Palumlum, Upli, Buckestate, Bilog, Amuyang, Kaytitinga, Pilipit, Pulo, Bigtasing, Kayleway, Magnolia Dairy Farm, Rodeo Hills, Royale Tagaytay Estates, Doña Crisanta Floro Piggery, Sierra Grande Country Club and Mountain Ridge Resort Residential Subd. in Alfonso.

REASON: Relocation of facilities along Tagaytay Ridge Road in Tagaytay City and Alfonso, Cavite.

LAGUNA (STA. CRUZ AND PILA)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 3:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS STA. CRUZ 32WF, 33WF, 34WF AND 35WF

The whole town of Sta. Cruz and Pila.

REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing works inside MERALCO-Sta. Cruz substation.

TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28-29, 2003

QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (TUE.,10/28/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 6:30AM AND 7:00AM (WED.,10/29/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS MARIKINA 41VG; AND CUBAO 51VQ

Portion of Aurora Blvd. (north side) from near Anonas to Katipunan flyover including the whole of Project 3, Aurora Milestone Condominium, St. Bridget's School Cpd. and K-Mart Complex along Katipunan Ave.

Portion of P. Tuazon Blvd. from 20th Ave. to Katipunan Ave. including Quirino Memorial Hospital, Bgys. Escopa 1 to 4, Cliff Drive St. in Blue Ridge "A" Subd., portion of J.P. Rizal, P. Burgos, A. Luna, Angeles, T. Castro and Katipunan Ave. in Proj. 4.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (TUE.,10/28/30) AND 7:00AM (WED.,10/29/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS MARIKINA 41VG; AND CUBAO 51VQ

Portion of Katipunan Ave. from near Temple Drive to near Quirino Memorial Hospital, including White Plains Subd., St. Ignatius Village, Cabalen Restaurant and Padi's Point-Katipunan.

Portion of B. Serrano Ave. from near 18th Ave. to Riverbank Road including Blue Ridge "B" Subd., the whole of Bgy. Libis and portion of 19th Ave. in Bgy. Bayanihan and portion of Camp Aguinaldo Cpd.

Portion of C-5 Road from B. Serrano Ave. in Bgy. Libis to near Uniwide Sales in Bgy. Ugong Norte including J.M. Basa Cpd., Phoenix Sun Business Park, Mercury Drug Corp. Complex, Eastwood City Complex, Acropolis Commercial Center, The Spa Bldg., Jolibee, Rustan's Shopwise, Digitel, Delta Milling Industries, Dowell Packaging Corp., Industria Road, the whole of Bgy. Bagumbayan, Riverview Industrial Subd. EEI Cpd., Universal Robina Cpd., Creative Trade Center, Kalinisan Steam Laundry, IDS Logistics Corp., Titan, Calypso, Apollo and Poseidon Sts. in Acropolis Subd., Libis.

REASON: Installation of line switches and reconstruction or primary lines along Katipunan Ave. and C-5 Road in preparation for the expansion of Meralco-Cubao substation feeder.

PASAY CITY AND MANILA (MALATE)

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (TUE.,10/28/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM (WED.,10/29/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TEGEN 57B

Portion of Vito Cruz from Taft Ave. to CCP Complex including portion of Leveriza, Balagtas, M. Adriatico, F. B. Harrison, Roxas Blvd., LRT Substation #3 along Taft Ave. corner Vito Cruz, one-feed of Century Park Sheraton Hotel, Balagtas Royal Mansion, Somerset Towers, Asiaworld Tower, Design Center Phils., Coconut Palace, one-feed of Trader's Hotel, one-feed of Phil. Westin Plaza, one-feed of PICC/CCP/FAT in Pasay City.

Portion of A. Mabini St. from near San Andres to near Vito Cruz including Ambassador Hotel, Echelon Towers, Hotel Royal Coco, Aloha Hotel, portion of Roxas Blvd. and M.H. del Pilar in Malate.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (TUE.,10/28/03) AND 6:00AM (WED.,10/29/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TEGEN 57B

Portion of A. Mabini and Roxas Blvd. from Pres. Quirino Ave. to near Vito Cruz, including Ospital ng Maynila and Manila Metropolitan Museum, Malate.

REASON: Replacement of rotten pole along A. Mabini near Harrison Plaza.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2003

BULACAN (BALAGTAS AND BOCAUE)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT BOCAUE 50YE; AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALAGTAS 13YA

Portion of McArthur Highway from Meralco-Bocaue substation to and including Bgys. Igulot, Binang, Bunlo, Hal-Rey Ice Plant, New Bocaue Sawmill and JIL Christian School in Bocaue.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along McArthur Highway in Bocaue, Bulacan.

VALENZUELA CITY AND BULACAN (MEYCAUAYAN)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUITS BOCAUE 44YE; AND MALABON 47YD-MALINTA 46YB

Along Balubaran St. from South Asia Steel to near S. Cabral St. including Pacheco Drive, Doneza, Sta. Monica Sts., Pacheco Village, Lucas Subd., Eden Court, Ancheluz Cpd., San Isidro Subd. and portion of Isidro Francisco St. in Bgy. Dalandanan.

Along A. Marcelo and F. San Diego Sts. from near McArthur Highway to and including Masipag St., Bantex Phil., San Martin de Porres Subd. and Menlo Subd. in Bgy. Dalandanan.

Portion of McArthur Highway from Meycauayan College in Meycauayan, Bulacan to near G. Santiago St. including Occidental Foundry, Fernando, Villa Encarnacion, A. Mendoza, Esteban Sts., Valenzuela Institute, NFA-ACA Cpd. and Valenzuela Memorial Park in Malanday, Valenzuela City.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT MALINTA 42YB; AND PORTION OF CIRCUITS BOCAUE 44YE; AND MALABON 47YD-MALINTA 46YB

Portion of McArthur Highway from Meralco-Malinta substation to near Meralco-Polo substation including Encarnacion, San Simon, S. Bernardo, Villanueva, Hermoso, G. Santiago, Blanco, Makisig, Magiliw Sts., Rincon, Atis Roads, Roads 1 and 6, Furama Cpd., San Simon Subd., Felizville, Antonio Subd., Lena Subd in Bgy. Dalandanan; and Flexco Road Road in Bgy. Veinte Reales, Valenzuela City.

Along T. Santiago St. from McArthur Highway to and including Molina St., Veinte Reales, Standard Cereal, Pacheco Subd., Darigold Subd. and one-feed of Meralco-North Distribution Division in Bgy. Veinte Reales, Valenzuela City.

REASON: Replacement of facilities to clear customer's frontage and replacement of rotten and badly leaning poles along McArthur Highway in Bgy. Dalandanan, Valenzuela City.

CAVITE

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 5:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS TERNATE 41TN AND 32ZO; PUERTO AZUL 32XX AND 33XX; AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT TERNATE 31ZO

The whole of Ternate including Marbella Resort, Puerto Azul Beach Resort and Country Club, Ocean View Villas, Caysubic Cottages and Paniman Resorts.

The whole of Maragondon except Bgys. Kaylangis and Mabilog.

Bgys. Muzon, San Roque, Molino and Malainen in Naic.

REASON: Replacement of corroded overhead guy wires and rotten poles at Cross Country, Ternate, Cavite.

BULACAN (NORZAGARAY)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 12:00MN - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT NPC-ANGAT 42AG-SAN JOSE 41SJ

Republic Aggregates Compound in Bgy. Hulo.

REASON: Maintenance works inside Transco-San Jose substation. (16 hrs.)

WEDNESDAY TO THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29-30, 2003

QUEZON CITY AND CALOOCAN CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (WED.,10/29/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 3:30AM AND 4:00AM (THU.,10/30/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT NOVALICHES 42YJ

Portion of Zabarte Ave. from Quirino Highway to near Benjamin Bldg. including Cruzville, T.S. Cruz Subd., Hobart Village, Blessed Sacrament Retreat House, Sierra Madre Subd., Diamond Village, North Olympus Subd., Sushila Village I, Franville III Subd., St. Jude Subd. and Quintos Village in Bgy. Kaligayahan, Quezon City.

Portion of Zabarte Ave. and Camarin Road from near Kassel Villas to Alma Jose St. in Bgy. Camarin, Caloocan City.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (WED.,10/29/03) AND 4:00AM (THU.,10/30/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT NOVALICHES 42YJ

Portion of Zabarte Ave. from Kassel Villas to Benjamin Bldg. including Constellation Homes, Villa Angelita Subd. and Francisco Village in Bgy. Camarin, Caloocan City.

REASON: Replacement of rotten pole along Zabarte Road in Bgy. Camarin, Caloocan City.

QUEZON CITY AND SAN JUAN

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (WED.,10/29/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM (THU.,10/30/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS STA. MESA 41F AND 44F

Portion of Santol, Sociego Sts., Aurora Blvd., V. Mapa and Old Sta. Mesa from MERALCO-Sta. Mesa substation near Bayani St. in Bgy. Santol, Quezon City to near Old Sta. Mesa Bridge in Bgy. San Perfecto, San Juan.

Portion of F. Manalo, Parada and Asinas Sts. from near M. Salvador St. in Bgy. San Perfecto to Wilson St. in Bgy. Addition Hills including Bautista, R. Pascual, Dimasalang, San Pablo, San Miguel, Mariano Marcos, Aurora, Gruet, V. Cruz, J. Vargas, Hoover, Araullo, Maude, Luna Mencias, Gomez Sts. and Bgy. Batis.

Portion of Gen. Kalentong and F. Blumentritt St. from near F. Roxas St. to near Regidor St.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (WED.,10/29/03) AND 5:00AM (THU.,10/30/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS STA. MESA 41F AND 44F

Portion of F. Manalo, M. Salvador, E. Fernandez and A. Rita Sts. in Bgy. San Perfecto, San Juan.

REASON: Retirement of facilities along depressed area in Bgy. San Perfecto, San Juan.

THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30-31, 2003

LAS PIÑAS CITY AND MUNTINLUPA CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM (THU.,10/30/03) AND 5:00AM (FRI.,10/31/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT AYALA-ALABANG 414WR

Portions of Don Manalo Blvd. and Alabang-Zapote Road from Meralco-Ayala-Alabang substation in Bgy. Alabang, Muntinlupa City to Concha Cruz Drive including dela Rosa St., portion of Buencamino St., BOIE, La Fuerza and Saniwares in Bgy. Almanza Dos, Las Piñas City.

REASON: Replacement of rotten and badly leaning poles and various maintenance works along Alabang-Zapote Road in Bgy. Almanza Dos, Las Piñas City.

FRIDAY TO SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 1, 2003

CAVITE (GEN. TRIAS AND IMUS)

BETWEEN 11:00PM (FRI.,10/31/03) AND 5:00AM (SAT.,11/01/03) - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT IMUS 34WK

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from Meralco-Imus substation to Bayan Luma Road including Makro in Imus.

Along Bayan Luma Road from Aguinaldo Highway to and including Bo. Manalo, Iglesia ni Kristo, Bgy. Alapan II, Bliss Housing in Gen. Trias.

Mary-Cris Homes, Bo. Bucandala, Villa Feliciana Subd. and Sarreal Subd. in Imus.

Along Malagasang Road from Bayan Luma Road to near Christian Joan School including Pag-asa Subd., Bgy. Malagasang I, Manuela Subd., MWSS, Mandarin Homes II, Hayag Motorworks and Machine Shop and Francis Rice Mill in Imus.

Along Alapan Road from Bayan Luma Road to and including Bo. Medicion, Bo. Alapan, Lakersfield Homes, Alfonso Village, Westwood Homes, Bgy. Pag-asa, Mikesell Subd. and Medicion St. in Imus.

Along Carsadang Bago from Alapan Road to near Gen. F. Yengco Ave. including Narra Homes, Gardenville Subd., Villa Lasquetta and Woodstock Homes in Imus.

REASON: Installation of line devices along Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highways in Imus, Cavite.

MERALCO exerts all efforts to restore electric service as scheduled. However, there are instances when due to unavoidable circumstances, restoration may extend beyond the published schedule.

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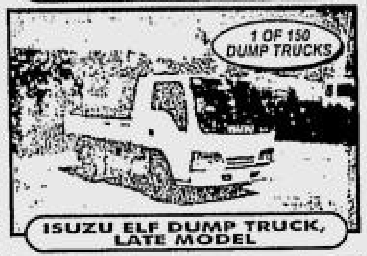
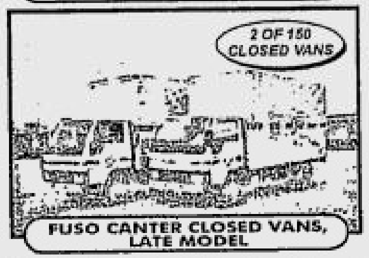
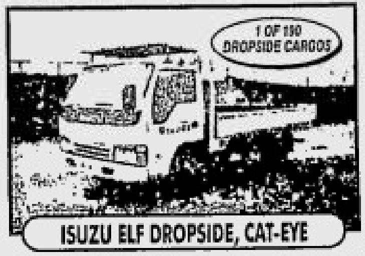


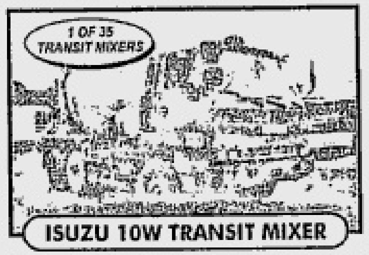
ISUZU ELF DUMP TRUCK, LATE MODEL



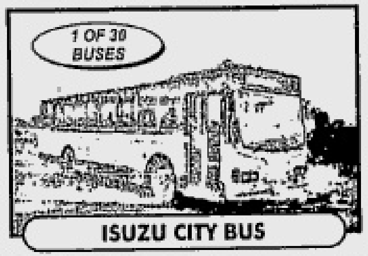
FUSO CANTER CLOSED VANS, LATE MODEL



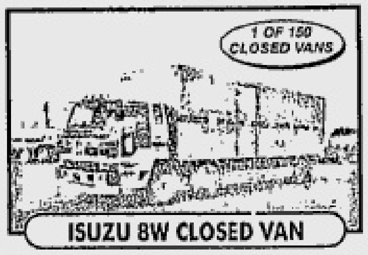
ISUZU ELF DROPSIDE, CAT-EYE



ISUZU 10W TRANSIT MIXER



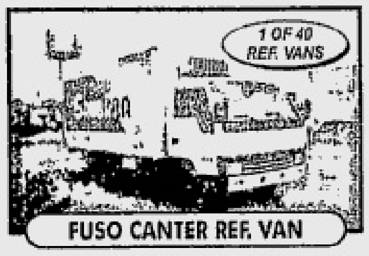
ISUZU CITY BUS



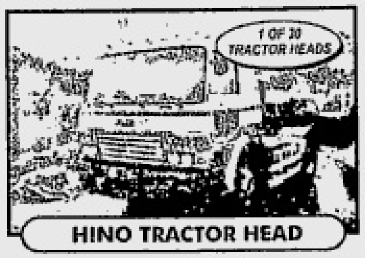
ISUZU 8W CLOSED VAN

1 OF 35 WING VAN

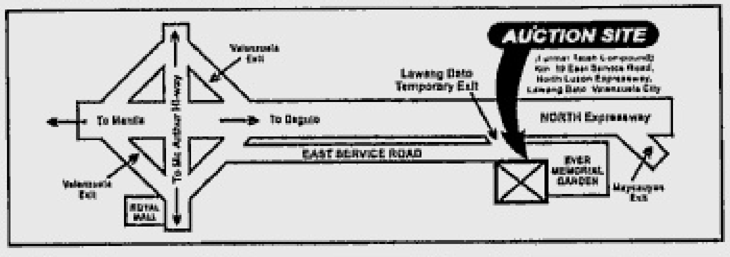
HINO 10W WING VAN



FUSO CANTER REF. VAN



HINO TRACTOR HEAD



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Rumsfeld frustrated over progress of war on terror

'The harder we work, the behinder we get,' US defense secretary says in memo

PROTESTERS dressed as US President George W. Bush and Saddam Hussein "kiss" outside Parliament House in Canberra during anti-Bush protests Oct. 23. AFP

WASHINGTON — US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld questioned whether the defense department is changing fast enough to succeed in the war on terrorism in an unadorned memo made public Wednesday that asks whether "the harder we work, the behinder we get."

Rumsfeld later said the memo, first published by USA Today, was intended to prompt Pentagon leaders to look beyond Iraq and Afghanistan at the larger war on terrorism.

"Sometimes one needs to say to a big institution, 'Hey, wait a minute. Let's lift our eyes up and look out across the horizon and say, "Are there questions that we ought to be asking ourselves?"'" he told reporters after briefing senators.

Dated Oct. 16, the memo set forth a series of questions that Rumsfeld put to combatant commanders as well as comments that suggest he has deeper doubts about the progress of the war on terrorism than he has publicly admitted.

The memo comes as Rumsfeld and others senior administration officials make a concerted effort to highlight progress US forces and occupation authorities have made in Iraq to offset what they see as negative press coverage.

"Is our current situation such that 'the harder we work, the behinder we get'?" Rumsfeld asks in the memo.

"It is pretty clear that the coalition can win in Afghanistan and Iraq in one way or another, but it will be a long, hard slog," he said.

The memo was addressed to General Richard Myers, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz; General Peter Pace, vice chair of the Joint Chiefs; and Douglas Feith, undersecretary of defense for policy.

Summing up the record since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, Rumsfeld said:

- "We are having mixed results with al-Qaida, although we have put considerable pressure on them, nonetheless, a great many remain at large."
- "USG (US government) has made reasonable progress in capturing or killing the top 55 Iraqis."
- "USG has made somewhat slower progress tracking down the Taliban Omar, Hekmatyar, etc."
- "With respect to the Ansar Al-Islam, we are just getting started."

He questioned how the United States can tell whether it is winning or losing the war on terrorism, and whether the slow-to-change defense department is ill-suited to the demands of waging such a war.

"It is not possible to change DoD (Department of Defense) fast enough to successfully fight the global war on terror; an alternative might be to try to fashion a new institution, either within DoD or elsewhere—one that seamlessly focuses the capabilities of several departments and agencies on this key problem," he said.

He said his impression was that "we have not yet made truly bold moves, although we have made many sensible, logical moves in the right direction, but are they enough?"

"Today, we lack metrics to know if we are winning or losing the global war on terror. Are we capturing, killing or deterring and dissuading more terrorists every day than the madrassas and the radical clerics are recruiting, training and deploying against us?"

He said relatively little effort has gone into developing a long range plan to stop the next generation of terrorists even though great efforts are being made to stop terrorists.

"The cost-benefit ratio is against us! Our cost is billions against the terrorists' costs of millions," he wrote.

Rumsfeld asked what should be done to stop the financing of radical Islamic religious schools or madrassas, and whether a private foundation might be set up to entice them to a more moderate course.

"Does CIA need a new finding?" Rumsfeld asked.

AFP

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WORLDBRIEFS

Billions in Iraq aid unaccounted for

LONDON—The US-run body governing Iraq has failed to account for billions of dollars allocated for rebuilding the country, a prominent British aid group charged Thursday. Christian Aid said in its report that the Coalition Provisional Authority had only explained publicly how it had spent $1 billion of the $5 billion it has been given for Iraqi development. The funds include $1 billion from the former United Nations Oil for Food program, $2.5 billion in assets seized from Saddam Hussein's former regime an $1.5 billion in oil revenues, the group said. "This is Iraqi money," said Roger Riddell, Christian Aid's international director. "The people of Iraq must know where it is going and it should be used for the benefit of all the country's people, particularly the poorest." *AP*

UN agency to study Iran nuke papers

VIENNA—Iran is expected to submit to the United Nations' nuclear watchdog on Thursday key documents it says will prove it has no plans to build an atomic bomb. Submission of the report meets a key demand of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which has given Tehran an Oct. 31 deadline to clear up suspicions its nuclear program ranges beyond power production to arms development. A diplomatic source said Iranian officials handed documents over to an IAEA official in Tehran late on Wednesday. An IAEA spokesperson said it would take at least several days to assess the contents of the report, awaited with intense interest by a Washington administration that views Tehran as a major focus of terrorist activity. *Reuters*

Gene in obsessive-compulsive disorder

WASHINGTON—US and Japanese researchers said on Thursday they had found a genetic mutation that causes obsessive-compulsive disorder and other mental illnesses and said some patients had a second mutation that made their conditions worse. The rare finding could make it easier to discover good treatments for the disorder, one of the top 10 leading causes of disability worldwide. The gene is called the human serotonin transporter gene, hSERT, and helps control how the body uses serotonin, a message-carrying chemical or neurotransmitter linked with mood. *Reuters*

Census of world's marine life

WASHINGTON—An unprecedented census of life in the world's oceans is discovering three new fish species a week on average and predicts as many as 5,000 unknown fish species may be lurking undetected, according to the first interim report. By the time they're done in 2010, scientists say they may find more than 2 million different species of marine life. Three hundred scientists from 53 countries participating in the $1 billion study reported their first findings Thursday, three years into the decade-long project. So far, the Census of Marine Life comprised 15,304 species of fish and 194,696 to 214,696 species of animals and plants, estimated to be roughly 10 percent of the world's total. The census is adding about 150 to 200 species of fish and 1,700 species of animals and plants each year. The scientists said they believe the oceans that extend across 70 percent of Earth's surface hold about 20,000 species of fish and up to 1.98 million species of animals and plants. Many of those could be basic and small life forms, such as worms and jellyfish. *AP*

UN blunders in Iraq blast

UNITED NATIONS—A damning independent report Wednesday said mismanagement, incompetence and a string of security breaches added to the death toll from the August suicide bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad. The report, ordered by Secretary General Kofi Annan, outlined a series of failures in the "dysfunctional" security system that contributed to the 22 dead, including top envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello, and 150 wounded on Aug. 19. "This is a wake-up call," Martti Ahtisaari, the former president of Finland who headed the independent inquiry commission, announced at a press conference to release the report. "The UN management and staff failed to comply with standard security regulations and directives, and left the UN open and vulnerable to attacks," he said. *AFP*

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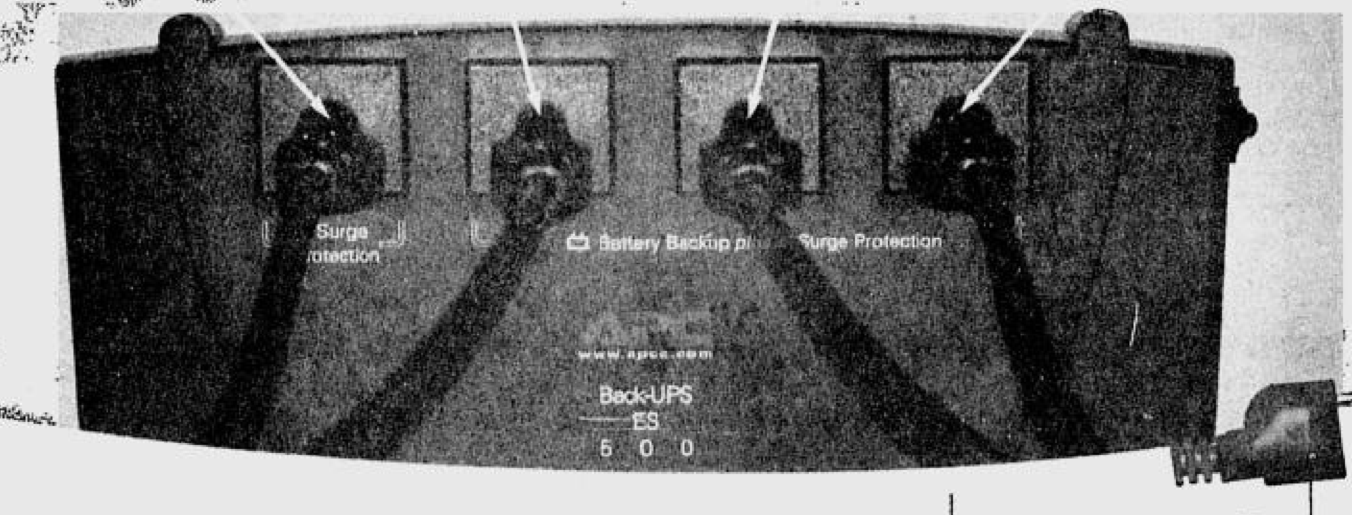

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PRINCESS Diana attending the funeral of Italian couturier Gianni Versace in Milan, July 22, 1997. AFP

Book: Diana's brod told her she had mental problems

LONDON—The year before Princess Diana died, she was alienated from her brother Earl Spencer and he wrote to her saying she had mental problems and was manipulative and deceitful, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Spencer, speaking on the American NBC "Today" program, said the letter published in excerpts from a new book, was being seen out of context and that he "adored Diana."

Worldwide television audiences had seen him in September 1997 giving a funeral oration about his sister, in which he spoke of their closeness as children, honored her memory and appeared to make a veiled criticism of the royal family.

He also said Wednesday that he did not believe her fatal 1997 car crash had been planned by anyone, despite a letter, published in the same book, in which Diana said she feared someone would tamper with her car's brakes.

Both letters are from "A Royal Duty," a forthcoming book by Diana's former butler Paul Burrell, which is being excerpted in the Daily Mirror newspaper.

Spencer told NBC he hadn't seen the letters but had heard from handwriting experts that published sections of the letters purported to be Diana's appeared to match her handwriting.

Diana's companion Dodi Fayed was also killed in the crash, and his father, Mohammed al Fayed, has never accepted the French verdict that driver Henri Paul's use of drugs and alcohol, and the car's high speed, caused the accident. Paul also was killed. Al Fayed says the deaths were intentional.

"My family and I are absolutely certain that we've never seen any evidence of that whatsoever," Spencer said, speaking to NBC from Toronto. As for Diana's fears, he said, "I do think it's just a horrible coincidence, rather than actually tied in with reality."

Asked if Diana's fears were justified, Spencer said she had spoken to him about being eavesdropped on and having her private quarters bugged.

"I think paranoid's a very strong word but I think using it in the common way meaning very, very concerned about yourself, yes, she was at times," Spencer said.

The letter attributed to Spencer and published in the Daily Mirror said, "I know how manipulation and deceit are parts of the illness. I hope you are getting treatment for your mental problems."

Spencer told NBC the letter was being seen "out of context and out of time." AP

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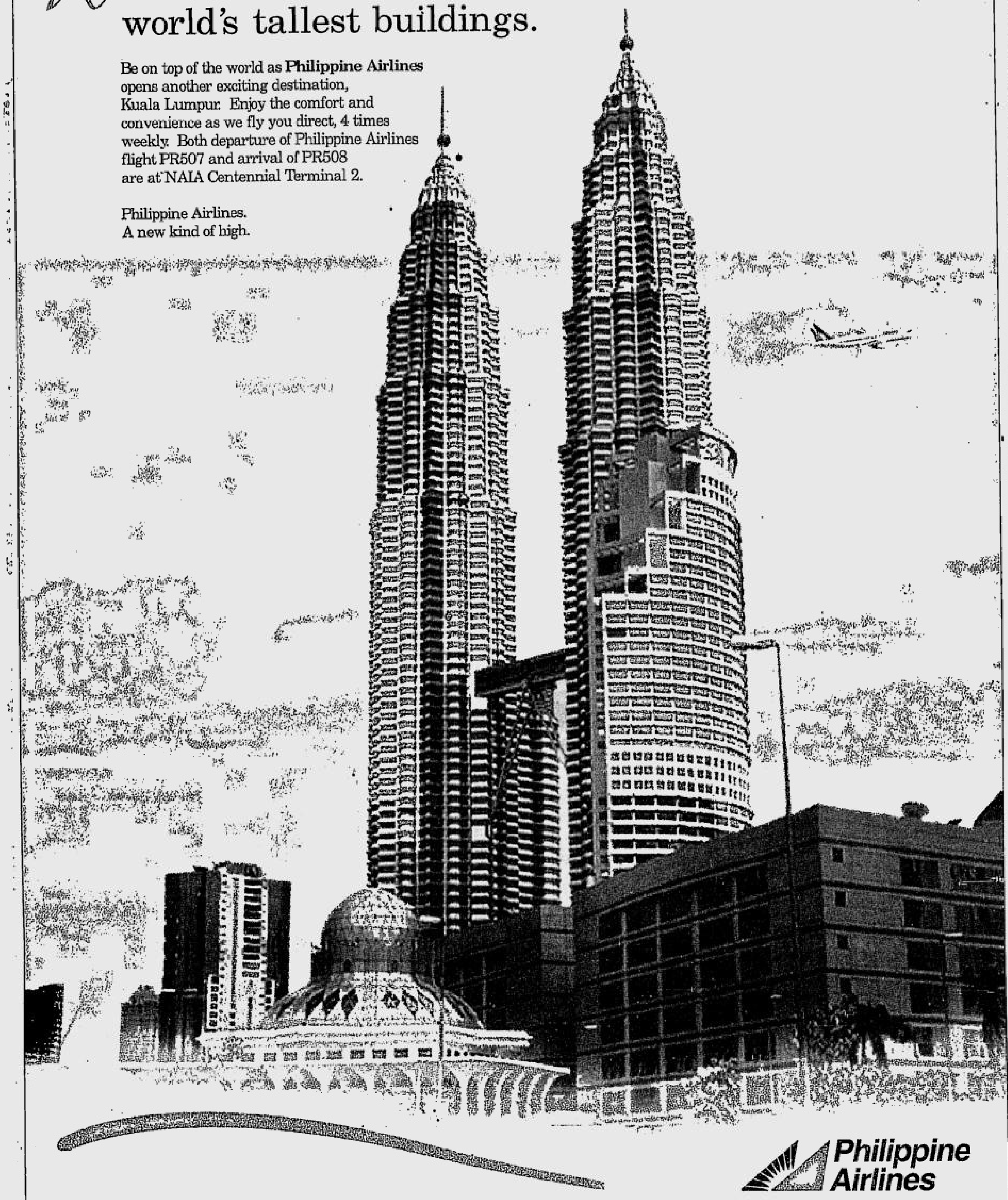

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Israel to keep on building barrier despite UN call

JERUSALEM—Israel vowed on Wednesday to press on with construction of its vast barrier cutting into Palestinian territory in the West Bank despite a UN resolution demanding it be torn down.

"The fence will continue being built and we will go on taking care of the security of Israel's citizens," Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told Israel Radio, reaffirming the position of Israel's right-leaning government.

Late on Tuesday, the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a resolution calling the sprawling network of fences and walls a "contradiction to international law" and ordering Israel to "stop and reverse" its construction on Palestinian lands.

Olmert said the Israeli government would defy what he called "the dictates of an automatic, hostile, inconsiderate and misguided (UN) majority that always acts against Israel."

Israel says it is a security fence to keep out suicide bombers. Palestinians call it a new "Berlin Wall" that cuts deep into territory they want for a state. The United States, Israel's chief ally, has expressed misgivings about the project.

The UN resolution said the barrier could imperil efforts to reach a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as called for in a US-backed peace plan, which has been stalled by persistent tit-for-tat violence.

Two days after deadly air strikes in Gaza, Israeli forces killed three militants in the West Bank on Wednesday, including a local leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). It vowed a "painful response with bombs and bullets." Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat said: "The Israeli statement reflects an Israeli determination to continue violating international law and continue the path of occupation and settlement rather than peace and reconciliation."

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said in an interview last week that Israel would complete the barrier—which will eventually run 350 km despite a US threat to reduce $9 billion in loan guarantees to the Jewish state.

Washington is concerned the project prejudges borders that should be decided in negotiations.

Arab states took the dispute to an emergency session of the 191-nation General Assembly after the United States last week vetoed a similar measure in the 15-nation Security Council.

Tuesday's vote on the resolution was 144-4 with 12 abstentions. The United States and Israel voted "no."

Unlike the UN Security Council, the General Assembly is not empowered to pass resolutions that are legally binding and acts more as a bellwether of world opinion.

The vote capped six hours of haggling between European Union and Arab governments over the text of the measure, which initially had been drafted by Palestinian UN envoy Nasser al-Kidwa and took a harsher line against Israeli actions.

US Ambassador John Negroponte said last week the measure he vetoed was biased against Israel.

EU diplomats said Tuesday's resolution was far more balanced since it condemned a suicide bombing that killed 21 people in the Israeli city of Haifa on Oct. 4. It also criticized Israeli settlement building and land confiscation.

On Wednesday, Israeli forces focused on the West Bank after the air strikes in the Gaza Strip on Monday in which hospital officials said 10 Palestinians were killed, most of them civilians. An 11th Palestinian died from his wounds on Wednesday, hospital officials said. *Reuters*

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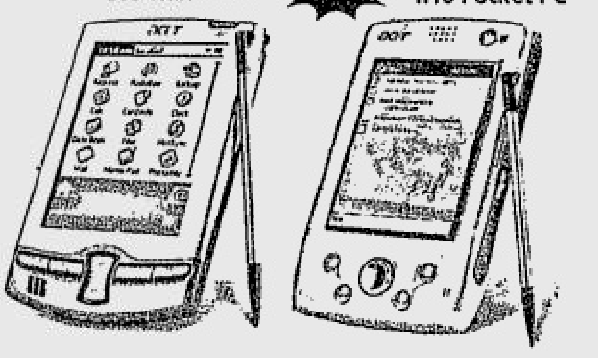

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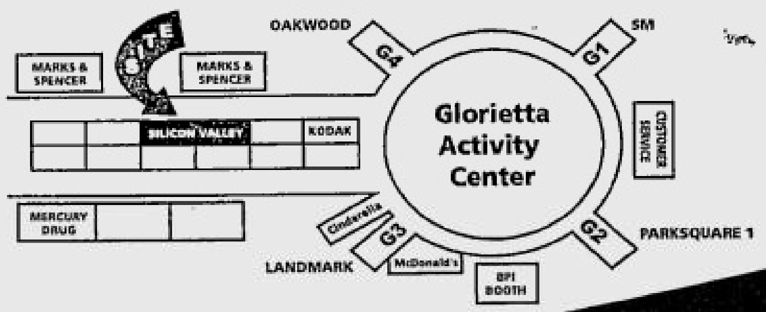

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'Bayan muna'

EDITORIAL

BARELY three years since the Filipino people got rid of the international embarrassment and the national disaster that was the Estrada administration, some unrepentant backers of the former actor and sorry supporters of People Power II are pushing another action star to the presidency. Sen. Edgardo Angara and former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile together with businessman Eduardo M. Cojuangco—all key players in the campaign and administration of Joseph Estrada—are urging movie king Fernando Poe Jr. to throw his hat into the presidential ring. And the Left, which supported the ouster of the grossly inefficient and highly corrupt Estrada, seems inclined to back Poe's candidacy.

Poe himself, to all indications and to his credit, appears reluctant to take on the rigors of the campaign and loath to take up the burdens of the presidency. His wife, actress Susan Roces, shrinks at the thought of wading into politics which she has called "dirty." Other members of his family are also said to frown on the idea.

A sane and sensible attitude to take, all things considered. If Poe were to enter the race, he would be the least prepared and the least worthy among all the serious contenders for the presidency in our history. So bereft is Poe of any real credentials for high office, that one lawmaker who is inclined to endorse his candidacy, Party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran, had to look back to his movies to find something positive to say about him. Beltran said he appreciated the "nationalistic themes" of Poe's movies. He cited in particular "Asedillo" where Poe played the role of a schoolteacher who rebelled against American colonial role.

But if that is all it takes to make Poe fit to be president, what position will Beltran give to Cesar Montano, who played the role of the national hero, Jose Rizal? Does Beltran propose to elevate him to a god? Some officials who claim to serve the people are not above taking the people for fools.

At least Estrada, before seeking the presidency, had logged many years of public service, even if they were marked by mediocrity. But look what a mess he made when he assumed the highest office. Poe has never held public office all his life—not even that of barangay *tanod*. If elected, he would bring absolutely nothing to Malacañang by way of knowledge, experience or expertise in governance. And his sponsors would make the Filipino people believe he can do a better job than Estrada? To paraphrase Dolphy, Poe's problem may not be winning, it's what to do when the office is won.

To Poe's sponsors, governing well is the least of their worries. Which is hardly surprising, knowing how hard they campaigned for Estrada and how fiercely they defended him despite all the evidence of corruption and misrule when he was in power. To them, now as then, winning is not everything, it is the only thing.

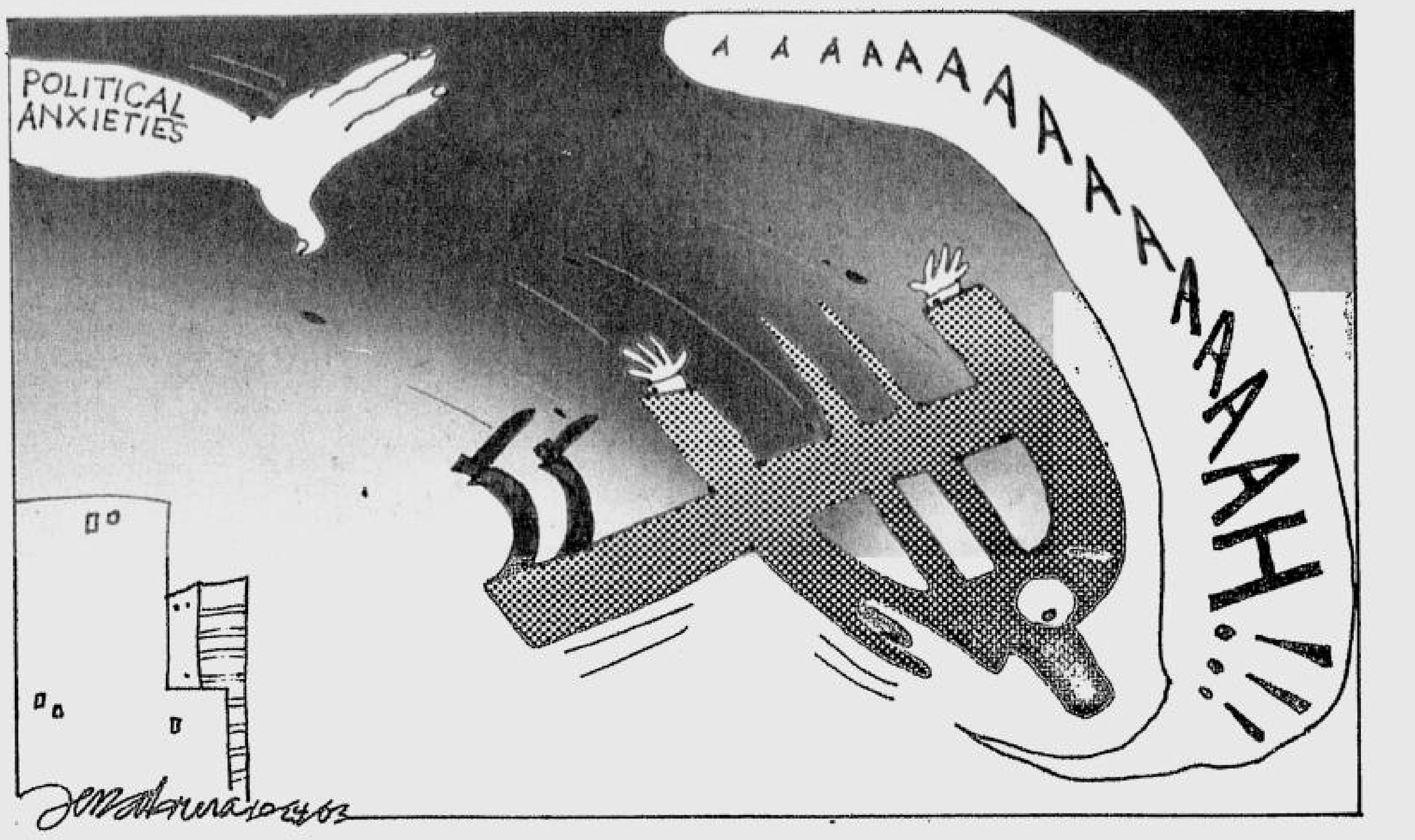
If all he has going for him is his celebrity and popularity, that doesn't matter at all to opposition politicians. Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda, who says she hasn't made up her mind as to what position she will seek but is obviously tickled pink by the possibility of running with Poe, describes such a pairing as a "box-office hit."

Right now, Poe looks like the best bet for the opposition to wrest control of Malacañang. Sen. Noli de Castro, who has been leading the surveys on presidential preferences, seems secure in the administration camp and is being talked about as President Macapagal-Arroyo's running mate. Former Education Secretary Raul Roco, another strong performer in the surveys, appears to be unacceptable to many opposition leaders. So Poe has to be persuaded to be the opposition standard-bearer.

But Poe had better be wary of his sponsors. If they are rooting for him, it's not because they like him or they believe he can do a good job of leading the nation. Each of them probably thinks he can do a better job, but then he can't win. They want to wield power, and given Poe's inadequacies they probably aim to serve as his puppet masters.

Sen. Vicente Sotto, whose self-appointed mission is to talk Poe into running, has said the actor needs a few more days to make his decision. He wants first to hold consultations with the groups that are urging him to run.

But Poe ought to spend more of that time on serious reflection. And the one basic consideration that should guide him in making his final decision is what Beltran and those other calculating politicians seem to have forgotten: *Bayan muna.*



'Da King and I-mee'

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I THINK if we elect Da King, Fernando Poe Jr., as president, we would have a bargain, something like "buy one, take one free." We would have two heads of state for the price of one: a president and a king. We would have a presidential system and a monarchy at the same time. Then the feudal system that we now have in the provinces would not be out of place. For nobody can deny that many politicians and leaders in the provinces behave like feudal lords with private armies, fiefdoms and reigns of terror.

But not to worry. Isn't FPJ the champion of the downtrodden, *tagapagtanggol ng mga api*? He will make short shrift of the villains in the country. The Philippines will be the new Camelot, a most convivial spot where everything, including nature, obey the orders of the king.

I know the elite are turning up their noses on "that movie actor," but don't belittle movie actors. One of the better presidents of the United States is a former actor in B-movies, Ronald Reagan, certainly better than many of the lawyer-presidents. He was elected president because he had a good record running California as its governor, much better than the last governor it had, a lawyer and professional politician that the Californians kicked out even before his term was over and replaced him with another movie actor whose brain, say his critics, is in his biceps: Arnold Schwarzenegger. We may have here a future president of the United States.

So don't knock out FPJ just because he is a B-movie actor. He may not have won any acting award but he is "Da King of action movies"; his movies make more money at the box office than all the artsy-fartsy films with critics' awards put together. If he can make money for the Philippine government the way he makes money for the movies, then the era of budget deficits would be over.

* * *

Who would be Da King's running mate? The talk is it will be Sen. Loren Legarda, as pretty a vice president as any nation can get. People already call the team-up "a political blockbuster" and "a box-office hit."

Why not? Both are in show biz, FPJ in the movies and Loren on television. The Filipino *masa* is always mesmerized by the movies, television, and radio. The poor forget their problems while watching and listening to the soap operas on TV and radio. They turn out in droves when a movie actor or actress turns up in the neighborhood. Housewives and housemaids leave the cooking and washing to watch TV or movie "shootings" in the neighborhood. These respites get them through the vicissitudes of life in the Philippines. They give them hope. One day, who knows, somebody like FPJ will come to take them out of their suffering. One day, I may be another Nora Aunor who rises from selling water at a train station to be a rich and famous star just by singing. I can sing, too, can't I? All I need is a talent scout to discover me.

With FPJ and Loren as President-Vice President, we would truly be another Camelot, like the Camelot of US President John F. Kennedy which was characterized by beautiful people. A handsome president, a beautiful first lady, friends from the movies that included Marilyn Monroe and Frank Sinatra's Rat Pack.

With Da King as our president, we would have a beautiful first lady in Susan Roces, plus a beautiful vice president in Loren. Malacañang would be decorated with their beautiful friends from the movies and television. What more do you want? At least members of the administration would be pleasant to look at. No more sloping eyebrows, fat bellies and overweight society matrons.

We already have show-biz people in the Senate in Ramon Revilla and Tito Sotto. Revilla's son and namesake, Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. also wants to be in the Senate. We already have show-biz people as mayors, vice mayors, councilors and barangay captains, why not president?

"But we already had a bad experience with a movie actor as president," say anti-FPJ partisans. "FPJ is just another Erap; in fact, they're kumpadres, birds of a feather."

To which pro-Erap/FPJ partisans retort: "Are we better off now than when Erap was President? Is corruption less or more now than before? No other movie actor or actress has been accused of graft but many lawyers and professional politicians have been linked to corruption."

Come to think of it, that is true. Erap may be only an exception.

* * *

Speaking of senatorial candidates, Rep. Imee Marcos should be a shoo-in in the FPJ-LL ticket. Imee is not only a law graduate, a stage and TV actress, but among the more outstanding and intelligent members of Congress. What's more, she has long been a fan of FPJ. She once thought of making a movie, a comedy, with Da King. Its title: "Da King and I-mee."

It would also make a good campaign slogan if Imee runs as FPJ's running mate, in case the team-up with Loren does not materialize, *'di ba*?

* * *

Speaking of Imee, she was reported to have lamented in Tacloban City that being a Marcos could be a "tremendous baggage." Many young politicians use the family's name as a stepping stone to political office. That is why there are many political dynasties. But the two Marcos children in politics, Imee and Bongbong, are indeed weighed down by the Marcos name. At least the father, who is already dead, does not add to the weight of the baggage anymore. But the mother, who is still very much alive and active, makes political life harder for her children with her statements and behavior.

It's a pity, because Imee and Bongbong—Imee especially—are the most intelligent members of the Marcos-Romualdez clan. They don't deserve the opprobrium heaped on their parents and uncles.

Defend your right to vote!

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

(Conclusion)

THERE is another thing to worry about in the coming elections, apart from the failure of a horde of first-time voters to register. That is massive cheating. The Comelec is not part of the solution, it is part of the problem. Still, if you don't know how to count, join the Comelec.

Gus Lagman, a Namfrel volunteer for 20 years, warns of the impending catastrophe, ironically to come from the Comelec's "modernization" program. Having personally supervised every Operation Quick Count since the Batasan elections in 1984 and being part of the IT community himself, Lagman has long lobbied for the modernization of elections through the use of computers. It was the only way the results could be known in days rather than weeks, thus freeing elections from unsavory things like *dagdag-bawas*.

Consequently, Lagman says, he and fellow advocates of clean elections were elated when Congress passed RA 8436 in 1997 mandating the modernization of elections, and when last year the Comelec announced it was bidding out the computerization project. It seemed as though their labors had borne fruit. Alas, not so.

The Comelec's "modernization" program took three phases. First was voters validation, second was automated counting and canvassing, and third was electronic data transmission of results of counting. IT practitioners saw no logic in phases one and three: They were unnecessary. Indeed, as various youth groups would point out later on, the first was illegal and baneful, defying the Constitution and drastically cutting the registration period. As IT groups would also point out, the second flung open the door to runaway cheating: the machines to transmit the results of the counting were not "stand alone"—they were hooked to cyberspace—and could be hacked.

The real logic of voters' validation and electronic data transmission lay in part in their budget. The first cost a billion pesos and the second P300,000, a billion and three hundred thousand good reasons to undertake illegal and baneful things. No wonder they are shooting each other out there—with bullets. The other part of the logic, well, the systematic disenfranchisement of new voters looks every inch the product of calculation rather than oversight.

Automated counting and canvassing were necessary, but the bidding was something else. The rules specified that all bidders must submit their three-year financial statements and that their machines should attain 99.9995 accuracy. The group that won was Mega Pacific e-Solutions Inc. An incredible feat for a bidder that failed to meet both criteria. Mega Pacific was incorporated only on Feb. 27, 2003 and could not produce the required accuracy level. How it managed to nail the contract, only Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos can say. He must be made to say.

His argument that the protesters are the losing bidders holds no water. It is not merely that losing bidders have every right to be heard if they have a valid complaint, it is simply that the protesters are not losing bidders at all. Lagman never bid. Abalos has a lot of explaining to do.

Lagman now finds himself in the ironic position of going against the very thing he has campaigned actively for for two decades, which is stopping the automated counting of votes. At least by Mega Pacific. His point is as sublimely forceful as it is simple: How can a group that won by blatant cheating assure honest elections?

You put them all together—the theft of the youth vote, cheaters assuring honesty and counting machines that count wrong—and you have an election truly being set up for a mugging. Even before we think of who to vote for, let us think of how to vote for them. We cannot vote, or our vote is made to disappear or materialize in the name of the man—or woman!—we detest, we might as well go home and plant *camote*. My apologies to planters and *camote*.

Three things we need to do at once.

First is to compel government—one suspects it is behind this Comelec's antics—to extend the Oct. 31 deadline of registration for new voters. It is patently illegal. The law explicitly says registration may stop only 120 days before a regular election and 90 days before a special one. Abalos' haste is obscene, and makes one want to know why he is parading the obscenity. Given that he himself is the source of the delay, the registration time should go well past the proscribed 120 days and reach as close to the elections as possible.

Second is to compel the Comelec to hold registration in the areas where the registrants are. In the case of the youth, in the campuses themselves. If the mountain won't go to Mohammad, Mohammad will go to the mountain. That is the only way the daunting task of registering the millions of new voters can be made less daunting. Alongside this, since the Comelec itself can't be expected to mount a massive information campaign on registration—although public wrath should steer it in that direction—the NGOs, media and the public should help in doing so.

And third is to scrap the contract awarded to Mega Pacific and re-bid the project. It is never too late to stop an iniquity. It is never too late to right a wrong. I myself have always wondered what happened to the Botong Pinoy people, their system was demonstrably superior—faster, cheaper, more ironclad. Their machines were stand-alone. If a re-bidding is next to impossible—though it is hard to see why so, we do not lack for automation systems ready to be applied at a moment's notice—better we do not use automation at all. Not for these elections anyway. Better to arm a citizen's army with clubs than put guns in the hands of cutthroats to protect us.

Take to the streets if you must: But defend your right to vote!

Disarray in the opposition

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE FACT alone that what passes for the "political opposition" is considering actor Fernando Poe Jr. as its presidential standard bearer in the 2004 elections, speaks volumes of the disarray in the opposition ranks and the scarcity of heavyweights.

The list of possible opposition presidential nominees is extremely narrow—including Poe, Senators Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio Honasan, business tycoon Eduardo M. Cojuanco—and an uninspiring lot. The opposition, which is expected to announce its presidential, vice presidential and senatorial candidates by Nov. 15, is scraping the bottom of the barrel to find a contender who can give President Macapagal-Arroyo strong competition.

No one on the list above is romping ahead with a blazing head start in public opinion surveys, and if popularity is a key credential to jump-start a party nomination, there is absolutely no basis for either Poe, Lacson, Honasan and Cojuangco to sweep the opposition's selection process now under way, and make the opposition ticket fly. According to the latest survey, Poe was the preferred candidate of 14 percent of the people surveyed; Lacson, 10 percent; and Honasan, 6 percent. Poe lagged behind President Macapagal who polled 17 percent. He has to do much better in the surveys if he hopes to overhaul the advantages of incumbency of the President. If Poe cannot show he has a broad popularity base, as claimed by his drum beaters, he has to demonstrate that he has more solid credentials to run this country competently than just being an actor.

Opposition leaders are giving the opposition a bad name if they cannot offer something better than an actor as a credible alternative to the President they want to replace. They have to give the electorate viable choices for the presidency.

The opposition is going through a nomination process that is not based on parties or any time-tested mechanism for selecting its presidential candidate. The opposition is dreaming of replicating the US primaries as a winnowing process that leads up to the party nominating convention. Presidential aspirants in the United States have to go through this elimination process, and surviving this test up to convention time is sufficient proof that the contender has grass-roots and party support.

We lost a similar process when our two-party system was dismantled by the Marcos dictatorship. This mechanism has not been replaced by another process after the restoration of democracy. In the vacuum, spurious nomination tests have emerged, all of them less rigorous than the nomination process mediated by the dominant political parties. Rather than party-mandated nominations, presidential candidates are now selected through other standards, including popularity ratings stemming from celebrity status, but excluding the tests of competence, experience in public service and intellectual equipment to grapple with the complex problems facing the country.

In selecting its nominee, the opposition has sacrificed rigorous leadership tests in favor of tapping celebrities who have little to offer the nation in terms of vision and competence. The opposition is pandering to the lowest common denominators for the presidency—among which is popularity which cannot make up for deficiencies in the credentials required to run the country with vision and competence. We have learned to our grief that Joseph Estrada's popularity did not make up for his incompetence, and picking him on the basis of his popularity alone led to political disaster for the nation.

Poe does not have the charisma of Erap. Thus, it is hard to understand why, despite his obvious deficiencies in qualifications, a number of people are mesmerized by him and why the opposition cannot find more qualified presidential contenders within its ranks other than a high school drop-out. They can discover at least a couple if they search beyond the circle of celebrities who seem to have distorted their selection process.

The spell of the celebrity syndrome was best illustrated by Sen. Loren Legarda, who was catapulted to the Senate through the celebrity vehicle more than any overwhelming political gifts or endowment. Enthralled by the prospect of a Fernando Poe candidacy, Legarda said their team-up would be a "box-office hit." This comment betrays Legarda's political immaturity, which has not been improved by her exposure in the Senate.

The presidency of this country should not be decided on the basis of celebrity and box-office appeal. Most celebrities who won high public office have confirmed the theory that celebrity does not add substance to their heads.

Proof of Legarda's immaturity, which should not help in her ambition to run for vice president, is that before she bolted Lakas, the administration party, she bridled at being reminded by her party mates that party membership entailed discipline and that her position as majority leader or party whip was incompatible with her silly idea of being "independent." Legarda has a wrong conception of independence, which made her party mates deride her ambivalent stance. When they described her as the "majority minority leader," the description was well-deserved.

As an "independent" inside the ruling majority, Legarda was no less than a mole inside the party serving the interests of the minority. I wonder how the minority coalition can feel safe with her ambivalence and her lack of appreciation of the importance of party discipline.

Connecting the 'DOTS' in TB

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AT THE HEIGHT of the hysteria over SARS, I began to wonder if the public hysteria over the "killer pneumonia" was not only sending us into needless panic but also obscuring the real threat to public health posed by older, more common and thus less "sexy" diseases—like TB.

Surfing through the Internet, I found my skepticism—and concern—fully justified. Compared to TB, SARS—which ultimately was responsible for the deaths of two people here—was but a mild hiccup in our public health scene.

Though it has long fallen off the news media radar, TB continues to be a silent, efficient killer. It kills an average of 75 Filipinos every day, with 22 million adults believed to be carrying the TB disease-causing bacteria, according to the Department of Health. Some studies even estimate that as much as half of our population at any one time has been exposed to TB. So common is the disease here that some people joke that "you're not a Filipino if you haven't had TB."

TB is not funny. In economic terms, a study conducted by the Tuberculosis Initiatives in the Private Sector (PhilTIPS) earlier this year found that the country loses P27 billion a year—or the equivalent of 2.7 percent of our gross domestic product in 2001—in the form of lost wages due to premature deaths and disabilities caused by TB. TB kills slowly, its victims wasting away over a course of several years. It is also infectious, and family members—often those who must look after loved ones with TB—are most vulnerable to infection, perpetuating a generational cycle of illness, debilitation and death.

* * *

BUT the bigger tragedy, to my mind, is that TB is also relatively easy to manage and cure—something that can't yet be said of SARS or AIDS. A doctor I talked with said that even after just a week of starting a course of TB treatment, a patient ceases to be infectious! But because of many factors—the stigma against the disease, lack of public awareness about its symptoms and management, and the overall shoddy state of our health infrastructure—Filipinos continue to be infected and to die of TB at an alarming rate. One wonders why this is so when the "sunshine sector" in our health industry are weight loss and cosmetic surgery clinics.

But I digress.

Health authorities worldwide have actually come up with a strategy that has proven to be most effective in curing patients with TB and ensuring that they are no longer infectious. It's called "DOTS," for Directly Observed Treatment Short-course, which essentially calls for a sputum confirmation test, after which patients are required to faithfully take their TB medications over a course of six months, their "fidelity" to the program ensured by health personnel or "partners" who must watch while the patient takes the medicine and records his/her progress during the course of treatment.

(Why watch the patient take the medication? Because when the medicines were simply given to a patient, most impoverished patients ended up selling the medicines to buy food for their families.)

The DOH has long embraced DOTS and—as a matter of policy, at least—people with TB can access DOTS for free at any public health facility, including health centers.

* * *

BUT another study prepared by PhilTIPS has shown that a substantial proportion of people seeking treatment for TB prefer to be treated by private doctors and in private facilities. The reasons vary—from the way they feel they're mistreated by public health personnel, to simply feeling that they get more competent and caring treatment from private physicians.

This would be well and good if many private doctors weren't so prejudiced against (or ignorant of) the DOTS protocol. But interviews with private doctors revealed generally negative attitudes regarding DOTS. Some didn't trust sputum exams and continue to insist on the use of X-rays to diagnose TB (even if these are deceptive). Others say their patients simply can't afford the medicines, or even if they could, they would balk against the six-month regimen. Some doctors just don't know any better.

The mandate of PhilTIPS, which is funded by the US Agency for International Development, is precisely to get the private health sector—doctors, hospitals and clinics, insurers and others—more involved in the fight against TB by following and encouraging the use of the DOTS strategy.

So far, the strategy that promises the best results along this line is to make it profitable for private doctors to use DOTS when treating TB patients, mainly by ensuring payment by even the poorest patients through health insurance.

* * *

THIS is why a most significant development was the signing just this week of an agreement between the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) and PhilTIPS that would strengthen further the TB benefit package offered by the health insurer. The package provides for assistance from PhilHealth of up to P4,000 per patient, provided the doctor or health facility follows DOTS.

A unique feature of the package is that the money is not given directly to the patient but rather paid to accredited DOTS centers. "This increases the chances that the patient will be diagnosed correctly and will complete the treatment," said PhilHealth president Dr. Francisco Duque.

With 38 million members, PhilHealth certainly has the potential of reaching even more Filipinos who have TB or are exposed to it, and making sure that they are diagnosed and treated correctly.

"PhilHealth's agreement with our project underscores its resolve to reduce TB in our country," says PhilTIPS chief of party, Juan Antonio Perez III, MD. "It also highlights the commitment of USAID to help Filipinos bring this horrible disease under control."

One way to write local history

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. O ampo

ABOUT four decades ago, public school teachers all over the country were directed to gather anything and everything on the history and culture of their area and send these to their regional superintendents. All the materials were eventually sent to Manila, sorted out and compiled in thick heavy volumes. This dated but useful resource has since been deposited in the National Library where it is known as the Historical Data Papers or HDP. Before World War II, pioneering anthropologist H. Otley Beyer compiled a similar series of ethnographic material arranged by province. Extant volumes are now in the Australian National Library and microfilm copies are available in the National Library and the UP Main Library. One would think that continuous research into local history is a worthwhile project that should be undertaken every decade at least, but knowing how teachers are overworked and underpaid (and during elections actually risk life and limb to secure our ballots), we would not want to burden them with yet another thankless task. While the quality of the HDP and Beyer material is uneven and one has to validate the contents for academic use, these remain one if underutilized material for the rewriting of Philippine history.

Since some people have rightfully described Philippine history "a local history of Manila," the HDP can help broaden our horizons. For example, there are many local heroes hidden to history lying in the HDP. While all schoolchildren from Aparri to Jolo know all the "national" heroes like Rizal, Mabini and Bonifacio, there must be a way to promote heroes in other areas like Maxilom and Kilat in Cebu or Dato Uto and Nicolas Capistrano in Mindanao. While we are at it, perhaps we can also expand the pantheon to include more women aside from Gabriela Silang, Gregoria de Jesus and Josefa Llanes Escoda. The task of writing our history is quite daunting and the main effort should be in spinning the threads of local history and weaving these into the national narrative that can be truly called a history of the Philippines. I am not being pessimistic, rather I am realistic when I say I do not expect to see this in my lifetime. If no effort is made to do another HDP, then it will take more than one lifetime.

Aside from what is known in the field, one could also dig up other sources like the 55-volume Blair and Robertson or the Philippine Commission reports, or the Reports of the US Governor General to note down anything unusual in the other regions. For example, whenever I read these reports I skim through the tables, graphs and statistics to concentrate on the pictures and the details in the text. When the Americans report on "disturbances" of any kind, I take note. Sometimes the people described as criminals or *ladrones*, *tulisanes* and Mafiosi by the Americans turn out to be patriots fighting a losing battle for our complete independence. Sakay is the best example of someone maligned in life and death and only now given his due. Rizal was a traitor to Spaniards, Bonifacio a rabble-rouser, but these men are heroes to Filipinos. History can thus depend very much on the eye (and biases) of the beholder. In my notebook for future research is the "Mandac Rebellion" described by Dean Worcester in 1911 as:

"A local uprising of insignificant importance stirred up by an ex-governor of Ilocos Norte, who, upon being convicted of murder, made his escape and took to the hills. He ultimately reached Nueva Vizcaya, entering the Province disguised as an Aglipayan priest. After remaining for a brief time at the town of Solano, he established his headquarters at a small and remote barrio and planned a coup which was, to include, among other things, the seizure of the arms of a garrison of Philippine Constabulary at Bayombong, the provincial capital. Assisted by several men of education and intelligence, he gathered a band of ignorant dupes by playing upon their credulity and their superstition. The plot might have met with some initial success had not the township secretary of Solano, who was one of Mandac's chief confederates, become alarmed and sent word to him that the uprising must come off at once, as the principal conspirators were about to be arrested. As a result, it took place prematurely and was promptly and very effectively ended.

"Mandac and his principal associates were captured, tried, convicted and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. Most of his ignorant followers were allowed to go on their way unmolested, but as a lesson to others a few of the more responsible among them were arrested and tried. They received short jail sentences. There existed absolutely no known motive for this uprising, so far as the common people who were engaged in it were concerned, but its occurrence demonstrates the power which can be exerted for evil by a clever and unscrupulous criminal who knows how to play upon popular ignorance and superstition." While no details are given, one wonders what kind of "ignorance and superstition" is being described above.

The eminent historian Reynaldo Ileto (now in the National University of Singapore) has illustrated in his landmark work "Pasyon and Revolution" (1979) that there is more to the biased colonial texts than we think. Was Mandac a criminal or something else? That awaits future research.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Fleshing out RP as a major non-Nato ally

COMMENTARY

Natalia M.L.M. Morales

THE QUICK but historic visit of US President George W. Bush to Manila on Oct. 18 has already sent Philippine stocks rising. For all the love-hate chemistry between the two countries, the excitement factor continues to titillate politicians and citizen Juan de la Cruz. Both still thrive in the continuing drama, past colonial relations rising from McKinley's dream, going sour and stale in history, but still being relished for all its worth.

The visit was historic because it marked the first time an American president came to Philippine shores in the 21st century. Likewise, it gave firmness to the US declaration of the Philippines as a Major Non-Nato Ally (MNNA) occasioned by Philippine participation on the side of the US-led global coalition against terrorism in 2001. Such status was announced formally by Bush during President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit to Washington in May 2003. Lest we think that the Bush visit is his own initiative, he in fact agreed to reciprocal state visits proposed by Ms Macapagal at the time of her own state visit. It is to Bush's credit, however, that he sticks to the schedule, threats of terrorist attack and a beleaguered Macapagal presidency notwithstanding. Surely, the MNNA status of the Philippines needs to be fleshed out and what the Philippines gains from all the entitlements the status carries. This will only be so if timely information is laid out and acted upon by policymakers and the public, like a checklist to determine how serious or not we should take the status of being a MNNA ally and why.

Offhand, the MNNA status for the Philippines is an official US commitment on two fronts. One, it allows the two countries to work together on military research and development and two, it gives the Philippines greater access to US defense equipment and supplies. As such, the Philippines is now at par with countries like Australia, Japan, Israel and Egypt on such grounds. The MNNA status likewise attempts to equalize the controversial RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) as regards openness of Philippine zone and facilities to specified but limited US military operations.

One should go down to more statistics to see what the MNNA status may be able to generate, with the usual caveats in mind.

The fact sheet released by the US State Department last May is a useful guide. The highlights of the benefits of such status are manifest in a number of areas.

There is $30 million in a new grant for equipment and training of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to target and counter terrorist groups within the country. Related to this is $25 million in a new grant to train and equip a combat engineering unit and provide military assistance in the war against terror. The unit is to engage in civic action and humanitarian projects in conflict zones. The Abu Sayyaf is the only Philippine terrorist group cited in the fact sheet. Ms Macapagal knows from where she speaks of readiness to face terrorism at any time and of any magnitude.

Another $30 million is pegged for development assistance to conflict in Mindanao and support the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front as seen fit. This peace-oriented solution includes the culture component of providing Muslim youth to participate in people exchange programs to broaden their horizon and experience, free from the clutches of fanatical and fundamentalist training. Cultural affairs officer of the US Embassy in Manila, Dr. Thomas Kral, informed me last July of the American Field Service Inter-Cultural Program being revived in the Philippines, accepted within the US State Department's broad cultural program and thinking of more Muslim youth involved this time. The AFS program deserves another column but its peace and culture approach falls within the purview of development assistance for conflict prevention.

A long-term concern for the Philippine MNNA status is the launching of a comprehensive security review of Philippine security needs and how the United States can best support Philippine military modernization and reform. From this standpoint is the US president's drawdown authority on up to $10 million in equipment, spare parts and maintenance. Support for Philippine military mobility is also provided as funding becomes available for 20 UH-1H helicopters, with additional 10 UH-1H helicopters to be provided to ensure sufficient spare parts.

The MNNA status can also whisk benefits to overseas Filipino workers as an initiative is launched to ease and reduce transaction fees of their remittances. Annual estimated savings from this effort is $300 million.

The MNNA status can gain benefits for Philippine veterans legally residing in the United States. Support of legislation extending new benefits to the veterans has been expressed clearly by the US executive branch. These include full-rate service disability compensation, eligibility for burial in US national cemeteries, full compensation for dependents and indemnity to survivors of various categories of veterans. The plan for a comprehensive health care is noted in the $500,000 grant in medical equipment to the Veterans' Memorial Medical Center for the benefit of Filipino veterans.

The visit of Bush was short but long on commitments and mutuality of concerns and interests. It is the height of statesmanship if our officials focus and negotiate effectively on the boon and prospects of RP-US relations with the flair for statesmanship and healthy pragmatism in a terrorized global society. Citizen Juan dela Cruz can take the cue from there if our leaders know how to play our cards adeptly and smartly as a major non-Nato ally.

Natalia M.L.M. Morales is vice president of the Philippine Council for Foreign Relations and UP professor of Political Science, Diplomacy and International Studies. E-mail her at nataliam91@hotmail.com

THEY SAID

Free but unfair

"Fair trade can be free but free trade can be unfair."
—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad

Giving up

"Basketball, zero anxiety. Other stuff, a little anxiety. But now I just pretty much, you know, give it up."
—Basketball star Kobe Bryant on his trial on a sexual assault charge

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Much to learn of correct protocol

MAY I thank Belinda Olivares-Cunanan for accurately capturing what happened when I refused to be frisked by the American Secret Service agents who were manning the entrance to the Malacañang reception hall where the state dinner for President George W. Bush was held on the evening of Oct. 18. (Political Tidbits, 10/21/02)

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I did that for a principle: Our guests have no business frisking us for entry into functions in our land where we are the hosts.

They can do with their visitors what they want in their own land. But we cannot allow them to do that in our own country because to do so would in effect provide proof that we, indeed, continue to be a US colony.

To me, there are things that are far more important that sitting at table and breaking bread with the Great White Father such as national and even individual human dignity. Which brings me to point out that it was wrong for the Senate president and the speaker of the House to have allowed President Bush to sit in between the two of them as if he were a sort of a foreign potentate receiving the homage of colonials in their home country.

Even when Bush addresses the joint session of the US Congress, he does not sit between the US Senate presiding officer and the US speaker of the House. The US Congress did not allow President Cory Aquino to take that seat of honor when she addressed the joint session of the US Congress early on in her presidency. Neither was Prime Minister Tony Blair given that privilege when he spoke before that body a few months ago. And when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo addressed the Japanese Diet, during her state visit to Japan, she was seated with senior officials of her delegation at some distance from the podium which she took only after she was formally introduced (in Japanese) to the members of the Diet.

It was not Bush's fault, of course. It was ours. But we can learn from it and not repeat it when other foreign dignitaries come to town and address joint sessions of Congress in the future.

There is much to learn from how other countries deal with foreign dignitaries and we now begin to do our own learning.

—SEN. AQUILINO
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os.pimentel@senate.gov.ph

LETTERS

South Forbes, not Dasmariñas

THE HOUSE raided by the agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) last Wednesday night, Oct. 15 at 7 Palm Avenue (the residence of Jose Reyes) where some people were caught holding a pot session, is within the jurisdiction of South Forbes Park Subdivision and not of Dasmariñas Village as reported ("PDEA busts drug den in Dasma") last Oct. 17 in the INQUIRER.

For correct and fair reporting, please make the necessary correction. We wish to preserve the integrity and good name of our village.

—MAMERTO R. RODRIGUEZ,
village manager,
Dasmariñas Village Association
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Dasmariñas Village, Makati City

Not fair to other judicial employees

IT is not fair to double the salaries and allowances of justices and judges while depriving the ordinary judicial employees (e.g. stenographers, sheriffs, process servers, interpreters, clerks of court et al.) the same privilege. It is discriminatory, it smacks of a double standard of social justice and it violates the constitutional doctrine of special protection to labor.

Judges and justices alone do not manage the administration of justice in the country. The lowly judicial personnel are an indispensable part of our justice system. If we neglect them, the wheels of justice will surely stand still and petty judicial corruption will continue.

Perhaps it is time to take a more comprehensive look at the existing salary standardization law of the country. I notice that it is honored more in the breach and in indiscriminate exceptions than in observance. Many specialized national government agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations have been exempted by their special charters from the salary standardization law. The salary and compensation systems of the national and local governments suffer from grave structural and philosophical distortions.

We are a poor country. The first things we must do should be to streamline the government bureaucracy and reduce its administrative fat and political cholesterol and to eradicate government and private sector graft and corruption, both of which milk the economy and the people of our very meager resources.

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Cowardly

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Then I saw some of them surround a woman at a corner and begin to destroy her little stall. If she was breaking the law, one polite policewoman could easily have dealt with the situation, with a couple of polite assistants to take away the stall.

The word that comes to mind for these thugs, especially for the absent one who hired them, is "cowardly."

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FPJ in 2004?

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

WHEN Joseph Estrada won for president, overseas Filipinos were dismayed, and now Fernando Poe Jr. is running. What can he offer to the Filipino people? I guess his first job when he wins is to free Estrada. He is not running for the sake of the Filipinos. Foreigners are laughing at us. They say we have gone down drastically in morality and intelligence. We hope this will not come to pass, as he cannot help make things any better for Filipinos. It hurts to listen to foreigners saying we have a terrible culture, a culture of corrupt, stupid people and drug lords running for government offices.—Rita Canlas, via e-mail

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I pity FPJ and the 80 million Filipinos. He may be a great actor but let's face it. Can he manage the security and economic livelihood of 80 million lives? It is very obvious that the opposition is using him for its own political agenda. What more if he becomes president? FPJ will be a robot, and we will be the casualties.

Let me suggest to FPJ that he first get the basics of government office management down before daring to compete for the highest position of the land, where he will be making decisions for the country.—Modesto C Tiongquico, via e-mail

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FPJ has good intentions—I do not doubt that—but in Philippine politics, mere good intentions are not enough. If he comes into power next year, does he think it will be easy to resolve the current plagues of this nation? Does he think curbing poverty or restoring vigor to the economy will be as easy as punching out his foes in the movies?

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Gov't men boo GSIS head, continue calls for ouster

LEGAZPI CITY—Loud boos welcomed Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) president and general manager Winston Garcia, during his consultation Thursday with Bicolano GSIS pensioners and members held at the Alicia Convention Hall, this city.

The long delay in the release of GSIS benefits such as loans, pensions and emergency assistance plus the alleged inefficient services of GSIS offices prompted fund members from all over the region to swamp this city upon learning of Garcia's arrival yesterday.

Anticipating hostility and sharp queries, Garcia delivered his opening statements in a high, defensive tune, which simply elicited boos and jeers from his Bicolano audience representing various government agencies.

Garcia and his officials, while cramming in their explanations and clarifications on various concerns raised, resorted to comparing their office to their private counterpart, the Social Security System (SSS).

In membership alone, they said, GSIS serves 1.5 billion compared to SSS' only 24 million members.

However, in terms of operating expenses, GSIS has P4.2 billion, very close to SSS's P4.6 billion.

The comparison of two separate offices prompted an SSS employee who was present and the disgusted participants to cry foul and called the comparison as "out of order."

One of the questions raised during the long consultation was the existence of 12 GSIS vice presidents who receive salaries of P500,000 a month each, which was not explained clearly by the government's highest insurance official.

The members expressed suspicion that money flows down the drain because of lucrative lifestyles of the government agency's executives.

Garcia groped for apologies in his desire to ease speculations.

He admitted, "My biggest mistake is the lack of communication, being a person who's always in a hurry."

He said he has very limited time and devoted most of these to reforming the GSIS. He admitted failing to update GSIS members.

He assured that things would change though. At present, he just said, there are about 800,000 claim applications for emergency assistance that swamped GSIS offices.

Of these, he said he has already cleared 300,000 and their checks have been processed.

"A sign of improvement in the processing," he boasted, which didn't seem to alleviate his audience's agitation.

In Iloilo City, government employees continued to demand for Garcia's resignation despite his public apology.

At least 200 government employees led by the Protect Our Fund (Pro-Fund) and the Confederation for the Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage) yesterday served a mock notice of termination for Garcia during a rally in front of the GSIS office on Iznart Street, Iloilo City.

The mock order written on a board about eight feet tall and three feet wide called for Garcia's ouster "to uphold and protect our public funds and the welfare of our people and government employees."

According to the mock termination order, Garcia was "directly responsible for the misuse of funds, gross-mismanagement and large-scale corruption in . . . GSIS."

It said that by admitting that he "overlooked the needs and welfare of government employees," Garcia was deemed "incompetent."

Garcia earlier apologized to GSIS members and pensioners, saying the suspension and delay of the processing of loan applications were due to the computerization of the GSIS data system.

Irma Espinas-Espinosa, Courage coordinator, said they were not satisfied with Garcia's apology.

"We demand his immediate ouster, nothing less," Espinosa told the INQUIRER. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

GSIS men lose rest hours to deliver chief's vows

BAGUIO CITY—Members of a union of government employees said President Macapagal-Arroyo was finding it difficult to dismiss GSIS chief Winston Garcia because she needed the political support of Garcia's father, Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia.

The elder Garcia is the provincial Lakas chair in Cebu.

Santiago Dasmariñas, secretary general of the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage), warned that should Ms Macapagal insist in retaining Garcia, government employees would not hesitate to vote against her in next year's presidential elections.

"What is politics compared to 1.4 million government employees whose families are suffering? If she does not listen (to calls for Garcia's ouster), she can expect more protests," Dasmariñas told Baguio reporters.

In Nueva Vizcaya, GSIS employees were required to work overtime to deliver the promises that Garcia gave to fund members.

Alex Valencerina, GSIS vice president for corporate services, ordered GSIS employees to work 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays, or three hours longer than usual. On Saturdays and Sundays, employees would have to work 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., according to Valencerina's directive on Oct. 20.

Francisco Cahimari, acting GSIS branch manager here, said the measure would ensure continued operations.

Garcia was earlier reported to have given a commitment to President Macapagal-Arroyo, who had decided to retain him as GSIS head amid mounting calls for his resignation.

Cahimari said the GSIS management kept tight watch on the operations of its branch offices since the agency was rocked by complaints.

"We report our accomplishments on a daily basis, either by (telephone) or e-mail. We give them figures," he said.

Since Oct. 13, the GSIS here has been swamped with applications for the Emergency Loan Assistance (ELA) from more than 12,000 government workers in Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino and Ifugao. *Melvin Gascon with a report from Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

GSIS says it released ₱2B

THE PRESIDENT of the GSIS said the fund agency has disbursed P2 billion in emergency loans to GSIS members.

In a statement, Winston Garcia said the GSIS started delivering emergency loans Oct. 13.

The GSIS received at least 500,000 applications for emergency loans and finished processing 300,000 of these, said the statement.

Garcia said this translates to a 60 percent efficiency rate.

"This is rather an impressing performance," said Garcia. "I don't think any agency can replicate this accomplishment."

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REPORT TO UN

GMA rights record 'worrisome'

By Maurice Malanes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The human rights record of President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration remains worrisome, according to a report presented by an Asian human rights watchdog before the United Nations.

"The promotion and protection of human rights in the Philippines is spectacular on paper but implementation is extremely poor," said Suhas Chakma, director of the New Delhi-based Asian Center for Human Rights (ACHR), in a statement.

In a 12-page report presented before the UN Human Rights Committee on Oct. 21, Chakma said torture and summary killings of activists remain part of military routine.

The ACHR attributed the killings to soldiers and military-backed vigilante groups.

The group also put to task armed opposition groups such as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the New People's Army and the bandit group Abu Sayyaf for also "violating the right to life" of their captives.

Since Ms Macapagal assumed power in 2001, at least 49 people were tortured, 37 of them in 2002, the ACHR said.

The group noted that this violation was happening in a country whose Constitution bans torture.

Most of the victims, it said, were Muslims in Mindanao and included minors and women.

Citing documents and investigations by the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, the ACHR also listed 44 people who were either killed or massacred in 2001 and 41 killed in 2002.

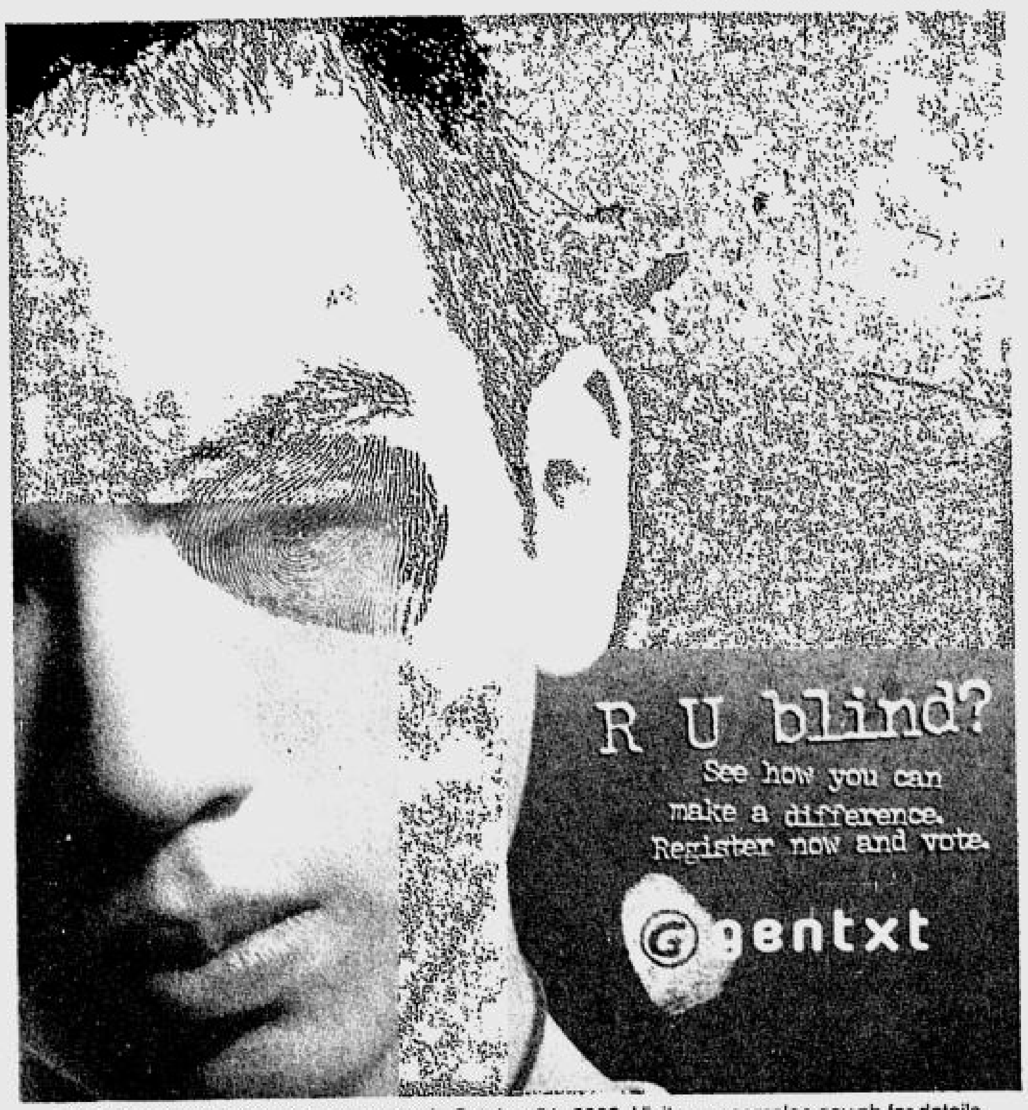
It also reported that five people disappeared in 2001 and 12 in 2002.

The ACHR noted that the Philippine Commission on Human Rights investigated 55 complaints of killings between January and June 2002, compared to 40 complaints in the same period in 2001.

The ACHR also scored the government for reintroducing the death penalty through Republic Act 7659. As a result, "death (now) hangs over 175 convicts, including 12 minors," it said.

As of last September, seven children, one of them a girl, were meted out the death penalty and are now detained at the New Bilibid Prison's medium security compound, the ACHR reported.

The ACHR meantime praised the government for being the first in the world to enact a law for indigenous peoples.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Anti-graft court orders arrest of 2 police execs

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Sandiganbayan ordered the arrest of the former regional director of the Central Mindanao Police and another ranking police official in the region over graft and criminal charges filed by a Quezon City foreign exchange dealer.

Ordered arrested were retired Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, former Central Mindanao Police chief and Senior Supt. Romeo Rufino, South Cotabato provincial police director.

The Sandiganbayan set their bail at P42,000 each for the two criminal cases filed against them.

The case was a result of a raid in Cotabato City against a robbery gang launched by the Special Operations Group of the Central Mindanao Police in December 2001.

During the raid, the team then led by SOG chief Supt. Willie Dangane, arrested at least four suspects.

The raiding team also seized several vehicles, household appliances, assorted firearms, undetermined amount of cash, including an ATM card containing P105,000 in deposit.

Reports revealed that the raiding team also seized from the four captured robbers some $30,000, which was allegedly part of the $126,000 loot they took from the Golden Faith money changing shop in Quezon City.

The owner of the money changing shop identified as a certain Bing Lim demanded custody of the items and valuables seized from the suspects.

However, Rufino, who was then the deputy regional director for operations of the Central Mindanao police, claimed he never took custody of the items seized due to the absence of receipt of articles taken from the suspects.

Rufino added that the items seized were not covered by a search warrant issued by a court.

Lawyers of the Lim family succeeded in remanding the seized items to the custody of the Quezon City court except for the Nissan Safari Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) the suspects took when they fled the money changing shop.

Lim soon filed graft charges against Baluyot and Rufino especially after seeing the former Central Mindanao police chief using the SUV during his December 2001 meeting with then PNP chief Dir. Gen. Leandro Mendoza in Davao City.

Rufino said he was surprised by the warrant because he was already exonerated in the same charges filed by the complainant before the PNP and the Ombudsman.

Rufino maintained his innocence, claiming: "My name was unfairly dragged into the controversy." *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ON THE RUN PHOTO FROM LACSON OFFICE

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson continues to trek the campaign trail despite his possible arrest as a result of the revival of the Kuratong Baleleng case. The senator was met with a buss on the cheek by a spouse of a member of the Batangas West Rotary Club during a recent speech before the club in Batangas City.

MILF appoints new chair of peace talks with gov't

COTABATO CITY—Mohagher Iqbal has assumed the post of chief negotiator of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in the peace talks with the Philippine government.

According to MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu, the official assumption of Iqbal was long overdue since he was elected by the MILF central committee on July 27 and confirmed by the MILF General Assembly three days later.

Iqbal, currently the MILF information committee chair, took over the position Al Haj Murad Ebrahim who was elected as MILF chair following the death of Salamat Hashim.

Jun Mantawil, who heads the MILF peace panel secretariat, said Iqbal is not new to the peace negotiations.

Iqbal was one of the MILF panel members during the early days of the peace talks in 1997.

But the appointment of Iqbal has reportedly triggered division among MILF ranking officials.

An Army officer said Salamat wanted Aleem Abdulasis Mimbantas, MILF vice chair for internal affairs and chief of internal security force.

But the central committee, dominated by Maguindanaoans, chose Murad. This move was perceived by military authorities as dangerous to the peace process since Mimbantas and his brother Janatti, both considered hardliners and "hawks," are reportedly consolidating forces.

Mimbantas was elected MILF vice chair for military affairs, a post that would give him overall command of some 10,000 MILF fighters.

Kabalu earlier said Mimbantas was first elected as peace panel chair but begged off due to health reasons.

But while there are indications that the peace talks would resume soon, the MILF insisted the government comply with its earlier commitment to redeploy soldiers in the Buliok Complex. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

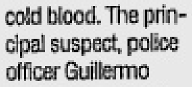
Amok wounds 1 in jail

ZAMBOANGA CITY—An inmate was wounded when a prisoner at the Zamboanga City Reformatory Center (ZCRC) here ran amuck.

JO1 Belsie Agustin, spokesperson of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, said inmate Felipe Gonzales, 23, stabbed another inmate, Jeselton Chang, before running to the gate and taking hostage Lea Elloremo, who was visiting someone in the center.

Agustin said jail guards gave Gonzales four warning shots. "He ignored the warning shots and proceeded outside, when he spotted Elloremo, he immediately got hold of her, so the jail guards decided to shoot him in the foot," Agustin said. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT is exactly 529 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

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Pampanga quarry revenue takes sharp drop

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Quarry revenues in sand-rich Pampanga reached only P8 million as of Oct. 2 or 33 percent of the P24 million collected for 2002.

Provincial treasurer Vergel Yabut said the causes of the decrease in the province's quarry income were still being assessed.

Yabut first announced the collection of P7 million during the Oct. 13 session of the provincial board.

The question on income cropped up when Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo inquired about the cash position of the capitol.

Sources at the capitol's licensing division traced the all-time low collection to alleged irregularities.

The collection, according to a source, is controlled by provincial administrator Benalfre Galang, a close adviser of Gov. Manuel Lapid.

Yabut assumed the post last month following the retirement of Jovito Sabado, a co-respondent of Lapid in two graft cases on quarry collections and capital gains tax.

In the Oct. 13 session, Yabut said it was the licensing division that directly supervised the collections.

Sabado, in a public hearing in July on quarry revenues, told board members it was Galang who bought receipts and collected payments for these.

This, Sabado said, was the scheme since the provincial government had not issued permits to quarry operators.

Galang resigned from the provincial quarry task force in June after the governor dissolved this body without the approval of the provincial board.

The source said Galang continued to hold reign over the quarry collections.

But Galang denied the INQUIRER sources' claims.

According to him, the decline in collections was due to misdeeds among the 45 checkers or capitol employees fielded in checkpoints to validate receipts or receive payments. The capitol charges P300 for every truck of sand hauled out of Pampanga.

He said some checkers accept bribes ranging from P100 to P200 per truck. Truck operators, in return, get away with paying the P300 mandatory tax.

At least three checkers interviewed by the INQUIRER rebuffed Galang's allegations.

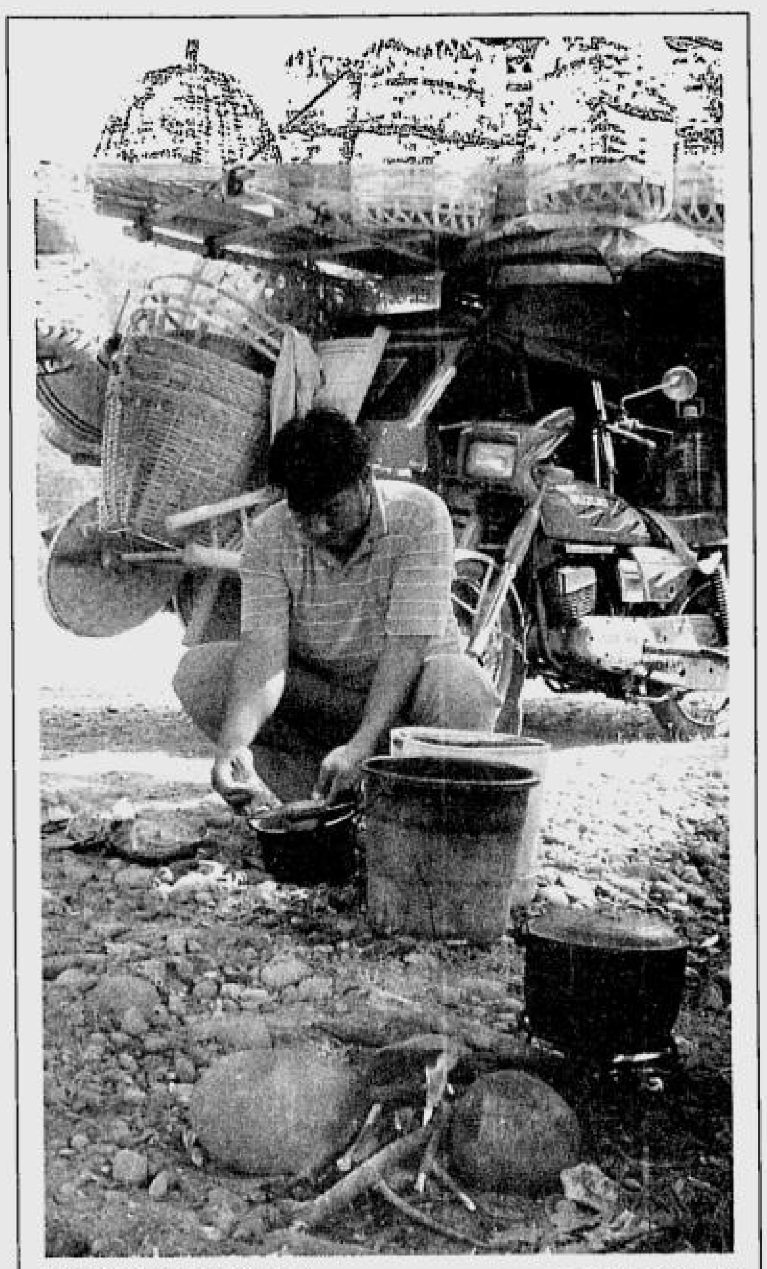
Galang said Lapid had recommended the re-establishment of the task force to improve the collection system.

The task force was dissolved a month after President Macapagal-Arroyo issued in July Executive Order 224 that placed the management of the quarry industry under the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The order noted reported quarry anomalies in Pampanga. The order has not been implemented, with a local court favoring the provincial government's mandate to manage local minerals.

Arroyo and the provincial board members have not ordered an investigation of the income decline but passed a resolution compelling Yabut to increase the collections to at least P10 million monthly.

Estimates by the board said the capitol can make a maximum of P900,000 daily from quarry taxes. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



LIFE ON THE MOVE TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Vendors of bamboo crafts, like this one in Bauang, La Union, take long trips through the towns of central and northern Luzon to make a living and take their meals where there's space enough to set up a makeshift kitchen.

Gov't vows to put stop to child labor by 2015

DAVAO CITY—The government has intensified its efforts to eliminate child labor by 2015, a consultant for the social welfare department's children's welfare program said on Wednesday.

Lea Robidillo, consultant of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and the Review of the Framework against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, said that by that year, the government aims to pull out some 44,500 child laborers from their working places and provide them with income-generating support and education.

Robidillo told reporters during the Ugnayan sa Royal Mandaya Hotel here that the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) has already prepared a blueprint for the program, which defined the functions of concerned government agencies, local government units, and non-government agencies.

She said that the program to address child labor was conceptualized by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and introduced to Asian countries like the Philippines, Thailand and Nepal.

In the country, at least eight pilot areas had been identified. These areas were the cities of Davao, Cebu, Dumaguete, Bulacan and Quezon City.

Robidillo said various agencies or stakeholders have been holding consultations in these areas to follow-up the implementation of the program.

Robidillo said most of the children in the identified areas work in mining and quarrying companies.

In Bulacan, she said, many child laborers have been exposed to the dangers of working in pyrotechnics factories.

She said one of the components of the program is the rescue by the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation of child workers and their turnover to the Department of Social Welfare and Development which would help them find income generating livelihood without violating child labor laws.

The Department of Education (DepEd) has been mandated to provide the rescued children free education.

"We need to rescue them so the government could provide them the specific services they needed," she said.

"It is a clear-cut and a doable plan, which needs the full cooperation of concerned government agencies and NGOs. There should be a convergence of efforts," Robidillo said. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Negros Occidental gov't launches 'on time' bid

BACOLOD CITY—Starting this week, expect local establishments, offices and officials of Negros Occidental, military, police, church and business leaders, judges and representatives of various sectors to have synchronized watches.

This came with the launching Monday of the "Negros Occidental on Time" campaign, designed to bring back a sense of time among Negrenses.

"We need to synchronize our time and learn to move on time," Gov. Joseph Maranon said following the campaign's launching held at the Igmayaan Hall of the Provincial Administration Center in Bacolod City.

Officials and private sector representatives participated in the ceremonial setting of watches at exactly 10 a.m. Monday, using the time set by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pag-asa).

By noon Monday, the simultaneous setting of clocks was signaled by the sounding of sirens of fire stations, sugar centrals, industries, church bells, and ringers, bells in schools, malls, banks, public and private institutions.

Maranon initiated the program after he and other officials here noted that there was no synchronization of time among offices, homes, commercial and industrial establishments, schools and other institutions, both public and private.

This was the reason people were often late for official functions, and why organized events started late and ended late in most cases, the governor noted.

"This lack of sense for (sic) the correct time is affecting productivity in offices and work stations,'" Maranon said.

Maranon thanked those present at the ceremonial setting of time and stressed that the new campaign will take off through leadership by example.

The synchronized time was also adopted for their respective localities by Mayors Janet Torres of Bago, Cynthia de la Cruz of Salvador Benedicto, Caroll Guanco of Hinigaran, Esteban Coscolluela of Murcia, Santiago Barcelona of Escalante, Fortunato Javelosa of Sagay, Enrico Elumba of La Castellana, and Valladolid acting Mayor Isidoro Armas.

Also present during the launching was Msgr. Victorino Rivas, vicar general of the Diocese of Bacolod. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Child-friendly city not so friendly to offenders

DAVAO CITY—Some 70 minors have been languishing in the city's primary detention center, which is crammed with hardened criminals, because of the lack of facility for minor offenders.

The lack of rehabilitation centers for juvenile delinquents in the city, which has been judged the country's most child-friendly city, has alarmed groups working on children's concerns.

Pilgrim Bliss Guasa, program coordinator of Tambayan Center for Street Children and convenor of Task Force on Street Children, said imprisonment has adverse effects on children but mixing them with adult offenders was more alarming.

He said being with adult criminals could have a negative influence on children.

Guasa said instead of being reformed, youth offenders could graduate from petty misdemeanors to serious crimes.

"Being put to jail just for rugby sniffing will have a heavy impact on the child. The stigma of being identified as a criminal is very real," she said.

JO1 Cherry Durante, custodian of the Juvenile Welfare Unit (JWU) of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), admitted that 66 boys were being detained in the same building as adult inmates.

But Durante said the children were being kept in the building's separate wing so they would not blend with adult prisoners.

"We made sure to separate them (sic), the adult inmates can't just mingle with them," she said.

In the case of the girls, Durante admitted they were housed in the same cell as adult female prisoners but "they are not allowed to mingle with the male minors."

"We don't have a separate cell for them so until the rehabilitation building is finished they will have to remain there," she said.

The rehabilitation center, which would serve as the detention area for the children, was being constructed inside the compound. *Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Toilet Recognition of the Year Awards

TROY AWARDS 2003
Toilet Recognition of the Year Awards

MECHANICS:

TROY Restroom Awardees

1. Open to owners and managers of public restrooms. To join, fill up the nomination form available in the DOT regional office and its government agency-partners (DILG, DOH, DepEd, and DOTC). Submit the nomination form to the nearest DOT-Regional Office where the restroom is located or download it from wowphilippines.com.ph. Deadline for submission of entries is on November 15, 2003.

2. The Regional audit team shall group the nominees per category basis.

3. The nominee who meets the 100 points criteria (or provisions 1 & 2) of the Evaluation Checklist shall be automatically considered for the 3-star award. Additional 20 points shall be given to the restrooms which meet the "More than the Usual" provisions. Restrooms which garner a total score of 106 to 113 points shall receive a 4-star award. Restrooms with 114 to 120 points shall be given 5-star award. Five-star awardees are the WOW best public restrooms which meet all the design, quality and maintenance criteria set by the National Committee.

4. The Regional Audit Team composed of representatives from the DOT, DILG, DOH, DOTC, DepEd and tourism-oriented NGOs may then schedule unannounced visits to the restrooms to validate the entries. The Audit Team may visit non-nominated toilets and opt to evaluate them.

5. Nominees for 4 and 5-star awards shall be validated by representatives duly appointed by the DOT National Search Committee.

LGU TROY Awardee

1. The LGU TROY Awardee shall be assessed based on the LGU overall performance and collective ratings of their nominees who qualify for the 3, 4, and 5-star ratings which shall comprise 70% of the total point score.

2. 20 points shall be given to the LGU administrative support systems. 10 points shall be rated for community mobilization and civil society/NGO participation.

EVALUATION PROCEDURE

A. TROY Restroom Awardees

1. The search shall be conducted in the city and municipal levels. The Regional Search Committee shall be composed of representatives from: DOT (Chairman), DILG, DOH, DOTC, DepEd, RAP, and Tourism-oriented NGO.

Nominees shall submit the following to the DOT-Regional Office:
a. Pictures of the restrooms
b. Accomplished Evaluation checklist (TROY Form No. 01)

2. The Regional Search Committee shall accomplish the following:
a. Table evaluation of the submitted documents
b. Conduct unannounced evaluation of the qualified nominees
c. Submit to the National Search Committee the final list of nominees for the 3, 4, and 5-star awards.

B. LGU TROY Awardee

1. The Regional Search Committee shall nominate to the National Search Committee only one LGU classified under:
a. Highly urbanized city
b. Component city
c. 1st to 3rd class municipality

2. A separate search shall be conducted for highly urbanized cities and municipalities in Metro Manila because these LGUs cannot be of the same level with LGUs outside of Metro Manila.

3. The National Search Committee shall determine the LGU TROY Awardee using the prescribed form (TROY Form No. 02).

4. The National Search Committee shall then evaluate who among the Regional nominees shall be given the LGU TROY Award and shall do on-site inspection of overall top 3 nominees per category.

AWARDS

A. TROY Restroom Awardees

All public toilets with 3 star and 4-star ratings shall be given a "TROY Restroom" Certificate of Plaque of Recognition and additional prizes from major sponsors. They shall also be included in the DOT Tourism roadmap and other promotional and marketing tools of the Department.

B. LGU TROY Awardees

All Regional winners shall be given Plaques of Recognition. National winners shall be given trophies and other exciting prizes from DOT and its major sponsors.

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In cooperation with:
Department of Health
Department of Transportation and Communication
Department of Education
Department of Interior and Local Government
Restroom Association of the Philippines

House members who signed impeachment complaint

1. Gilbert Teodoro Jr.	NPC Tarlac (principal complainant)
2. Felix Fuentebella	NPC, Camarines Sur (2nd principal complainant)
3. Julio Ledesma IV	NPC, Negros Occidental
4. Henry Lanot	NPC, Pasig City
5. Kim Bernardo-Lokin	party-list, Cibac
6. Marcelino Libanan,	NPC, Eastern Samar (chair, House committee on justice)
7. Emmylou Taliño-Santos,	Ind, North Cotabato
8. Douglas Cagas,	NPC, Davao del Sur
9. Sherwin Gatchalian,	NPC, Valenzuela City
10. Luis Bersamin Jr.,	PDSP-PPC, Abra
11. Nerissa Soon-Ruiz,	Alayon, Cebu
12. Ernesto Nieva,	Lakas, Manila
13. Edgar Erice,	Lakas, Caloocan City
14. Ismael Mathay III,	Ind., Quezon City
15. Samuel Dangwa,	Reporma, Benguet
16. Alfredo Marañon Jr.,	NPC, Negros Occidental
17. Cecilia Carreon-Jalosjos,	Reporma, Zamboanga del Norte
18. Agapito Aquino,	LDP , Makati City
19. Fausto Seachon Jr.,	NPC, Masbate
20. Georgilu Yumul-Hermida,	Puwersa ng Masa, Quezon
21. Jose Carlos Lacson,	Lakas, Negros Occidental
22. Manuel Ortega,	NPC, La Union
23. Uliran Joaquin,	NPC, Laguna
24. Soraya Jaafar,	Lakas, Tawi-Tawi
25. Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado,	Lakas, Bulacan
26. Claude Bautista,	NPC, Davao del Sur
27. Del De Guzman,	Lakas, Marikina City
28. Zenaida Cruz-Ducut,	NPC, Pampanga
29. Augusto Baculio,	Ind.-LDP, Misamis Oriental
30. Faustino Dy III,	NPC-Lakas, Isabela
31. Augusto Syjuco,	Lakas, Iloilo
32. Rozzano Rufino Biazon,	LDP, Muntinlupa City
33. Leovigildo Banaag,	NPC-Lakas, Agusan del Norte
34. Eric Singson,	LP, Ilocos Sur
35. Jacinto Paras,	Lakas, Negros Oriental
36. Jose Solis,	Ind., Sorsogon
37. Renato Magtubo,	party-list, Partido ng Manggagawa
38. Herminio Teves,	Lakas, Negros Oriental
39. Amado Espino Jr.,	Lakas, Pangasinan
40. Emilio Macias,	NPC, Negros Oriental
41. Arthur Pingoy Jr.,	NPC, South Cotabato
42. Francis Nepomuceno,	NPC, Pampanga
43. Conrado Estrella III,	NPC, Pangasinan
44. Elias Bulut Jr.,	NPC, Apayao
45. Jurdin Romualdo,	NPC, Camiguin
46. Juan Pablo Bondoc,	NPC, Pampanga
47. Generoso Tulagan,	NPC, Pangasinan
48. Perpetuo Ylagan,	Lakas, Romblon
49. Michael Duavit,	NPC, Rizal
50. Joseph Durano,	NPC, Cebu
51. Jesli Lapus,	NPC, Tarlac
52. Carlos Cojuangco,	NPC, Negros Occidental
53. Giorgidi Aggabao,	NPC, Isabela
54. Francis Escudero,	NPC, Sorsogon
55. Rene Velarde,	party-list, Buhay
56. Celso Lobregat,	LDP, Zamboanga City
57. Alipio Badelles,	NPC, Lanao del Norte
58. Didagen Dilangalen,	Puwersa ng Masa, Maguindanao
59. Abraham Mitra,	LDP, Palawan
60. Joseph Santiago,	NPC, Catanduanes
61. Darlene Antonino-Custodio,	NPC, South Cotabato
62. Aleta Suarez,	LP, Quezon
63. Rodolfo Plaza,	NPC, Agusan del Sur
64. JV Bautista,	party-list, Sanlakas
65. Gregorio Ipong,	NPC, North Cotabato
66. Gilbert Remulla,	LDP, Cavite
67. Rolex Suplico,	LDP, Iloilo
68. Celia Layus,	NPC, Cagayan
69. Juan Miguel Zubiri,	Lakas, Bukidnon
70. Benasing Macarambon Jr.,	NPC, Lanao del Sur
71. Josefina Joson,	NPC, Nueva Ecija
72. Mark Cojuangco,	NPC, Pangasinan
73. Maurico Domogan,	Lakas, Baguio City
74. Ronaldo Zamora,	Puwersa ng Masa, San Juan
75. Angelo Montilla,	NPC, Sultan Kudarat
76. Roseller Barinaga,	NPC, Zamboanga del Norte
77. Jesnar Falcon,	NPC, Surigao del Sur
78. Reylina Nicolas,	Lakas, Bulacan
79. Rodolfo Albano,	Lakas, Isabela
80. Joaquin Chipeco Jr.,	LDP, Laguna
81. Ruy Elias Lopez,	NPC, Davao City

GMA lauds Davide as impeachment fire rages

By Juliet Javellana

WHILE congressmen were rushing to impeach Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., President Macapagal-Arroyo was heaping praise on the man who swore her into office during the second Edsa People Power revolt.

At the annual convention and seminar of the Philippine Judges Association at the Century Park Hotel yesterday, the President praised Davide for initiating reforms in the judiciary.

Ms Macapagal said Republic Act 9227, upgrading the compensation of judges and justices which she signed during the affair, was one important component of judicial reform.

"Other components are being done within the judiciary itself. And while we, to the extent possible, do not comment on inter-branch independence, we would like to commend the judicial reforms being done at the side of the judiciary under the great leadership of Justice Davide," the President said.

Ms Macapagal said it was providential that RA 9227 was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives in time for its signing into law during the PJA convention.

"And I thank them for it and I think once more the Lord's timing is perfect and it was the Lord who timed it today," she said.

The landmark law was signed into law weeks after judges walked out of their courtrooms to press the Senate for the passage of the measure granting their additional allowances.

The law grants additional compensation in the form of special allowances for justices, judges and all other positions in the judiciary with rank equivalent to justices of the Court of Appeals and the regional trial courts.

Ms Macapagal said upgrading the compensation of judges was necessary to combat corruption and make the legal profession an attractive career.

She said that the salary of a judge was much lower than the starting pay of a new lawyer in a prestigious Makati law firm.

Danding solons impeach Davide

From page A1

do-Lokin of the party-list group Citizens Battle Against Corruption (Cibac), and Rozanno Rufino Biazon of Muntinlupa City provided the 75th and 76th signatures.

They reportedly signed after Representatives Mark Cojuangco of Pangasinan and Fuentebella went to their homes Wednesday night to ask for their support.

Teodoro told reporters that, as of 3:30 p.m., 81 congressmen had affixed their signatures to the complaint, which is more than the minimum 76 votes required in the Constitution.

Lakas support

But the final number could not be determined as of press time, because some congressmen had reportedly decided to withdraw their signatures while others signified their intention to sign.

With 60 seats, the NPC is the second biggest party in Congress, but some members of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Lakas party are openly supportive of Cojuangco, who is considering a run for the presidency.

"No one is above the law," Teodoro said, after submitting the complaint to the House secretary general's office.

The complaint alleged "grounds of graft and corruption, betrayal of the public trust, culpable violation of the Constitution and ... failure to maintain good behavior while in office."

Under the so-called one-third rule, the impeachment complaint will be automatically transmitted to the Senate once the signatures are formally verified.

Impeachment court

The Senate, sitting as an impeachment court, will work "with dispatch" on the Davide impeachment case, Senate President Franklin Drilon said.

Drilon gave the assurance even as the chamber is expected to be busy approving the 2004 national budget. Congress adjourns on Feb. 6, in preparation for the May elections.

Drilon said that as of press time, the chamber had not yet received the Articles of Impeachment against Davide.

But once the Senate receives this, the chamber will form itself into an impeachment court, with the Senate President serving as the presiding officer, he told reporters.

This is the only difference, Drilon said, with the impeachment trial of Estrada.

In accordance with the Senate's rules on impeachment, the trial will be held on a daily basis except on weekends and holidays.

Drilon said the trial would begin at two every afternoon and will be open to media coverage.

The Senate is familiar with impeachment procedures because of the Estrada precedent.

"That is why I am confident that the Senate will be able to discharge its constitutional duty efficiently and with dispatch," Drilon added.

Unparalleled

The impeachment is unparalleled, and is likely to shake the foundations of the judiciary and put immense strain on its relations with Congress, a co-equal branch of government.

Drilon did not categorically admit that the impeachment case could result in a constitutional crisis.

But he said: "I believe that the stability of our democratic institution and processes will depend upon how the Senate will be perceived in the discharge of its functions."

Fund administrator

The complaint alleged that Davide, being the sole administrator of the JDF, underpaid judiciary employees the sum of P527.8 million.

Davide also allegedly utilized a total of P234.7 million for supposedly questionable expenses, such as the renovation of the Supreme Court, the construction of Baguio City vacation homes for justices, construction of the Supreme Court's multi-purpose building, the acquisition of luxury cars and a subsidy for the Court of Appeals printing press.

The total amount in question, P762.5 million, "may only be a fraction of the JDF funds withheld by respondents from the members and personnel of the judiciary or disbursed by respondent for unlawful purposes," Teodoro and Fuentebella alleged. "There may be other transactions even more scandalous and unconscionable."

JDF funds

The JDF is a multibillion-peso fund administered by the Chief Justice, who has the sole authority to authorize and approve disbursements.

The JDF is intended principally to provide the members and personnel of the judiciary, numbering about 25,000, with an additional cost of living allowance.

"Yet, as of the end of calendar year 2002, more than P500 million required by law to be paid as additional cost of living allowance ... has not been paid," the complaint said.

The JDF was created in 1984 by Presidential Decree 1949 and draws on a portion of the legal fees paid when cases are filed in the country's courts.

The complainants noted that Davide, in response to requests and inquiries from Fuentebella, ordered high court personnel to "defy the inquiries made by the expediency of denying cooperation."

"It is a matter of human rights," Fuentebella said yesterday, noting that employees of the judiciary were deprived of their rightful share of the JDF.

In a letter to Speaker Jose de Venecia last month, Davide defended the disbursements of the JDF.

He noted that PD 1949 stated that 80 percent of the fund shall be used for the cost of living allowances of court employees, while the remaining 20 percent shall be used for office equipment and court facilities.

"It must never be forgotten that the SC is a constitutional national body with jurisdiction likewise national in scope... Hence, it transcends the requirement that the JDF should be spent only in areas where it is collected. In short, for the purchase of its equipment and facilities, including the vehicles for the Chief Justice and the Associate Justices, the Court may utilize its share in the 20 percent allotment in the JDF that may come from all courts in the Philippines," Davide said.

Withdrawal, addition

According to Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez, at least two congressmen, Representatives Mauricio Domogan of Baguio City and Ernesto Nieva of Manila, withdrew their signatures.

But Minority Leader Carlos Padilla, who was still in his province, signified his intention to sign the complaint.

Six more congressmen were expected to affix their signatures by the weekend.

Those who pushed for Davide's impeachment divided into three groups to cover more ground. Fuentebella headed one, Rep. Jacinto Paras of Negros Oriental led another, and Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio of South Cotabato worked with a third.

Sensing defeat

On Wednesday, De Venecia tried to counter the flow against Davide by preparing a resolution expressing the sense of the House in support of Davide. But the resolution was never circulated after De Venecia sensed defeat, a congressman said.

Lokin said the number of signatories was an omen not only for Davide.

"This is more than an impeachment. One implication of this is that they can now control the majority. This is a very clear wake-up call for Speaker De Venecia because many are not satisfied with the way he's running the House," Lokin said. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Christine O. Avendano, Philip Tubeza; Reuters, AFP*

Davide: Malicious, baseless; politics involved

From page A1

lasco reads: "No impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year."

"It is very clear in the Constitution that they cannot file [the new complaint at this time]. That is barred," Velasco said.

He said the new complaint should "not be given due course" because it had "far-reaching consequences" that could "undermine the independence of the judiciary."

Due process

Velasco pointed out that Davide had not even been given the chance to air his side.

"He has not even seen the impeachment complaint, and it is already going to the Senate. Even common criminals are informed of the accusations against them. How much more the head of the third branch of government?" Velasco said.

"This is a transgression of the basic right to due process. As part of inter-departmental courtesy, whenever there is an accusation, [the respondent] should be given the opportunity to refute the complaint."

Velasco said further that the complaint was "premature" because the House committee on justice had yet to complete its investigation of the alleged fund misuse.

The court administrator, who has testified before the House committee, also denied any misappropriation of the fund: "I have not seen any diversion or misapplication of the JDF. Even one centavo."

Neither whim nor caprice

In a letter sent last month to Speaker Jose de Venecia, Davide defended the disbursements of the JDF.

He said the two cottages being built in Baguio City were meant to replace the cottages wrecked by the 1990 earthquake.

"They will be used beyond the terms of the present members of the court in the same way that cottages of early 20th-century vintage have been maintained and used by the court," he said.

The tribunal holds summer sessions in Baguio to hear cases of national importance.

Tradition

"The holding of summer sessions is a tradition that dates back to the early part of the 20th century; it does not reflect the whim or caprice of the present members of the court," Davide said.

He said that while the Chief Justice was vested with the "sole exclusive power" to authorize fund disbursements, it had always been the tribunal's policy and practice that the court en banc approve large expenditures.

"The practice in no way implies that the Chief Justice is abdicating his statutorily prescribed power. It simply guarantees the propriety of expenditures, as it provides all the members of the court the opportunity to determine whether such expenditures should be incurred at all and/or when these are meritorious," Davide said.

He added: "It must be said without fear of contradiction that the court takes all precautionary measures in the disbursement of the JDF. Care and caution are duly exercised because, with the minimal appropriation allotted to the judiciary, PD 1949 [which established the JDF] provides the much-needed infusion of funds, without which the judiciary cannot properly perform its constitutionally mandated duty of administration of justice."

Clear danger

Davide did not mince words in denouncing the House inquiry, which, he said, presented a "clear and present danger" to the judiciary.

He said he had confirmed from sources that Congressman Fuentebella wanted the investigation only to find a basis for another impeachment complaint against him.

"This unprecedented inquiry may be the beginning of the destruction of our democratic institutions, especially the judiciary, which is the last bulwark of democracy and the sentinel of the rule of law. I trust the House of Representatives will never allow itself to be a part of any plot or scheme to destroy our democratic institutions," he said.

Davide said the inquiry, "especially with its confirmed purpose" of making it a basis for a new impeachment complaint against him, "as well as the manner the investigation is being conducted," also constituted a violation of the rules of and jurisprudence on investigation in aid of legislation; an "irreparable" breach of the doctrine of separation of powers; and a violation of the judiciary's fiscal autonomy.

Unprecedented

He noted that through the inquiry, "no less than the third organ of government is subject to a spectacle unprecedented in the history of our country."

He said the proceedings were "clearly designed to humiliate or embarrass the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice and put them in discredit and ridicule, thereby putting in clear and present danger the independence of the judiciary."

'He has no choice but to submit to a Senate trial'

From page A1

business staying (as Chief Justice) a second longer," Gonzales said. "He should resign."

Gonzales said that Davide's refusal to subject himself to an impeachment trial will make a mockery of the constitutional principle of checks and balances, with the power of impeachment given to the House.

"*Hindi pwedeng walang respetuhan* (There must be mutual respect)," Gonzales said.

In Malacañang, the President's spokesperson said President Macapagal-Arroyo, who was sworn into office by Davide, would not interfere in the impeachment case.

"The Office of the President cannot, and will not, interfere in the exercise of a purely congressional prerogative, especially since it involves another independent branch of government," Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters.

"But on a personal level," Bunye said, "we know that the President has a high regard and respect for the Chief Justice."

No choice

Rep. Florencio Abad, president of the Liberal Party, said that Davide had no choice but to subject himself to an impeachment trial in the Senate.

"So what will the Senate do if the Chief Justice does not want to recognize the complaint? We'll have a constitutional crisis," Abad said.

Abad said that such a crisis could be averted if Davide allowed himself to go under the jurisdiction of the Senate, which under the Constitution has the power to try impeachment cases.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan underscored the need to evaluate "whether or not a second impeachment complaint can prosper against Davide considering that there is an express prohibition in the Constitution."

He was referring to Section 3, Article XI on Accountability of Public Officers where "no impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year."

"Assuming that it is not unconstitutional, we have a constitutional duty to go to trial even if the same may impact on the country's political and economic situation," Pangilinan added.

Gonzales also explained that the one-year prescription in impeachment cases did not apply to Davide.

According to him, the one-year prescription starts in any of the two following conditions:

- When the House committee on justice votes that an impeachment complaint is sufficient in substance.
- Or when the House, sitting in plenary, votes that an impeachment complaint is sufficient in substance.

Done deal

Sen. John Osmeña noted that the moment Tarlac Rep. Gilbert Teodoro Jr., the leader of the Nationalist People's Coalition, signed the second impeachment resolution last week, the case was a done deal.

"I knew it was coming after the favorite nephew of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco signed it," Osmeña said.

He said he knew then that "all NPC congressmen would endorse it and that the required votes would be reached."

Interesting days

Cojuangco is the founder of the NPC, the second biggest political party in the lower house next to the ruling Lakas-CMD. Teodoro, son of Cojuangco's sister Mercedes Cojuangco-Teodoro, is the NPC chair in the chamber.

Administration Sen. Ralph Recto predicted that with the advent of the political season, the impeachment trial "would make the days ahead very interesting and challenging in the Senate."

Recto begged off from commenting on the merits of the complaint because, as a senator, he would be sitting as a juror. Recto, however, admitted that the trial could effectively hamper legislative work in the Senate.

Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez, who told reporters about the withdrawal of certain signatories, also cautioned against rushing headlong into a constitutional crisis.

"I took it against the Supreme Court but my personal feeling should be subsumed by national interest. There will be a constitutional crisis if they pursue this," he said. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Christine Avendano*

FVR on FPJ candidacy . . .

From page A1

"FPJ's top-grossing films have placed him on a pedestal adored by our people. That was the same situation of former President Joseph Estrada when he was still active in the movies. But he is now fighting a legal battle on charges of plunder, and his alleged cohorts are nowhere to be found. These were the same people who persuaded Mr. Estrada to run for president," Barbers said.

The senator reminded the actor that the political campaign and winning were just "one-fourth of the story." Barbers said the task of turning the economy around and solving the peace and order problem in the next six years was three-fourths of the story.

Real life

"Following a movie script with special camera effects is different from the true slice of life where poverty will lead a person to commit a crime. We are facing a crisis that needs decisions that will not please the majority of more than 80 million Filipinos," he said.

But militant workers said they were willing to support Poe on the condition that he side with the people and not the elite.

"He must possess the disposition of a patriotic and incorruptible public servant and shun the undesirable characteristics of *trapos*. If he could take on the challenge of everything that is not Estrada or Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Ping Lacson and Danding Cojuangco, then he might have a chance to gain broad support from the labor movement," Joel Maglunsod, secretary general of the Kilusang Mayo Uno, said.

The Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino said Poe was not worth supporting just because he portrayed Teodoro Asedillo, an idealistic schoolteacher who rebelled against the American colonial government, in a 1971 movie.

"But there is enough reason to back him if he acts resolutely as a contemporary Asedillo rebelling against globalization in real life, not on reel," Victor Briz, BMP chair, said in another statement.

The BMP leader said the elite hate Poe not because he is uneducated but because he has not been molded in the traditional school of politicians, which makes him a wild card that the elite are not sure of controlling.

Fan

Ramos said he did not personally know the actor Poe, although he acknowledged that he was once a fan of Fernando Poe Sr.

"(Poe Sr.) belonged to that era when actors were really looked up to. He was very handsome, well-built," the former President said.

"Fernando Poe was a true Pangasinense. He was from San Carlos, Pangasinan," Ramos said.

As for Poe Jr., Ramos said: "A true Pangasinense, like me, was one who was born and who grew up in Pangasinan. One does not become a Pangasinense just because the province is vote-rich."

Campaigning for GMA

Besides, Ramos said, he already endorsed a Pangasinense in the person of Ms Macapagal. "I have already endorsed a Pangasinense and that is President Macapagal-Arroyo," Ramos said, explaining that the President's paternal grandmother hailed from Pangasinan.

Asked if he would actively campaign for the incumbent, Ramos emphatically said: "Of course!"

In Laoag City, Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. urged Poe to announce his political plans soon.

"(The opposition) has long wanted Poe to be the standard-bearer for the obvious reason that he is a strong contender," the governor said.

But Marcos expressed reservations about Poe's intent to join the presidential race, noting the short time the actor would have to mount a nationwide campaign.

"I have the feeling that if he is going to run, he would have said so. A presidential campaign takes years to put together," he said. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Martin P. Marfil in Manila and Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Ping backers consolidate in wake of FPJ bid

From page A1

lou Talino-Santos (Independent), and JV Bautista (Sanlakas). Also in attendance were Cavite Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi (LDP), Mt. Province Gov. Sarin Macalinas (LAMMP), Batangas Gov. Hermilando Mandanas (Reporma) and Cavite Vice Gov. Jonvic Remulla.

Firm support

Lacson said he expected this support for him to remain firm even if Poe finally agreed to run for president under the opposition banner.

He lashed out at certain LDP leaders for earlier pushing for businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco of the Nationalist People's Coalition and now Poe.

But LDP president Sen. Edgardo Angara made it clear that the party was still in the process of selecting its standard-bearer. He said Lacson, Cojuangco and Poe were among those being considered.

Asked whether Lacson would pursue his candidacy even if Poe ran for president, Representative Remulla said: "Our mind set is that FPJ is not going to run."

Mitra (Palawan) said that he did not foresee a head-on fight between Lacson and Poe in the May elections. "The opposition will remain united and Poe is not expected to run," he said.

He said Angara, who is pushing for a Poe candidacy, was not present at the meeting which lasted for four hours until 11 p.m. and attended by Lacson. Also absent were LDP congressmen identified with the Angara faction, particularly his sister Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo.

Remulla said that Poe was a "hesitant candidate who is merely being pushed to run." Asked to identify those who were pressuring Poe, he named Angara and Cojuangco.

Remulla said that the pro-Lacson group did not foresee any problems should Poe declare his intention to run for president, more particularly as the standard-bearer of the opposition.

"There must be a convention by the opposition wherein we will choose our common candidate," he said.

Remulla said that Lacson would respect a decision to draft Poe as long as the convention is fair and representative of the entire opposition.

"That's the point. It must be a fair selection process," he said.

Asked if his group was prepared to split from the opposition and strike out on their own under these circumstances, Remulla said: "Yes. *Kaya* (We can do it)."

GMA: Let's not terrorize ourselves

From page A1

currency traders and businessmen.

It wasn't their only concern, though.

News that the opposition was fielding action star Fernando Poe Jr. as its presidential candidate in next year's national elections has also rattled the business community.

"I think the business community is concerned that political parties are fielding candidates for president not on the basis of capability and proven track record but on the basis solely of popularity and winnability," said Jose L. Cuisia, Philamlife group chair and former Central Bank governor.

Donald Dee, president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, said the financial markets had reacted negatively to Poe's reported presidential bid because "no one understands what his plans are for the country."

Raul T. Concepcion, chair of the Federation of Philippine Industries, said Poe was "a good family man with no vices and could relate well to the masses."

But Concepcion said Poe did not have the capabilities needed by the country to steer the economy back on track, manage a bloated bureaucracy, implement reforms, and push the country's interests in international forums.

"The Philippines would be severely handicapped if our president would use the first few years of his term to learn economic, administrative and diplomatic skills. We can't afford this at this point because our country's problems have piled up and we can't tarry any longer to solve them," he said.

Concepcion said the political parties should be concerned with the country's future and put a premium on a candidates' qualifications rather than on popularity.

Wild card

The country's unpredictable election season has also thrown a wild card into economists' forecasts for the economy next year, raising doubt over whether it can ride on the coattails of a US recovery.

Ten economists polled by Reuters gave a median forecast of 4.5 percent for gross domestic product growth in 2004, better than an expected 4.0 percent this year, but many of them were cautious over the impact of the elections.

Many local companies, especially those in the food and beverage sector, are looking forward to a sales boost from the elections.

"It's difficult to bring out the impact in terms of (pre-election) spending, but we do know that the candidates would have to spend for campaign paraphernalia," said Joey Cuyegkeng, economist at ING Barings Securities Philippines Inc.

Brake on investments

The flip side, however, is that rising political uncertainty is likely to act as a brake on foreign investments at least until the political waters clear with the election of a president, be it Ms Macapagal or a rival candidate.

"Because of the election, there is going to be a lot of uncertainty, so there might be holding back on investments," said Luz Lorenzo, economist at ATR Kim Eng Securities. "Exports would benefit from a US recovery, and there may be a pick-up in consumer spending."

Last month, credit rating agency Moody's Investors Service cut the outlook on four of the Philippines' key ratings to negative from stable, citing rising economic and political risk ahead of the elections and after a failed mutiny by junior military officers.

Budget deficit

Ms Macapagal has helped ease uncertainty over the elections by reneging on an earlier pledge not to run. But analysts said Ms Macapagal's decision would open the way for more vicious attacks from her political opponents.

There are also renewed worries over the government's budget deficit, which is showing signs of bulging again after the Macapagal administration had some success in controlling it earlier this year.

The government aims to limit the budget deficit to P197.8 billion in 2004 from a goal of P202 billion this year after breaching three targets last year, but some sectors are concerned that pre-election spending could threaten its targets.

The World Bank expects the Philippines to post economic growth of 4.2 percent in 2004 from 4.0 percent this year, the slowest growth among Southeast Asian countries after Indonesia.

Philippine officials are confident not only of hitting a 4.2-percent GDP growth this year but also a target growth of 4.9 to 5.8 percent in 2004.

Economists expect inflation to remain benign at 3.1 percent this year—the same as the actual average inflation rate last year—but advancing to 3.8 percent in 2004.

The median forecast trade deficit is $2.2 billion in 2004, the same as the median forecast for 2003 and against $220 million in 2002. *With reports from Reuters*

Flying eye hospital . . .

From page A1

tions where 90 percent of the world's blind live.

The three Filipinos are part of Orbis' 20-member team from 10 nations that flies across the world to perform free eye operations for the poor and to train and update ophthalmologists on the latest surgery techniques.

They worked for a long time at various points of the world before they found themselves—and their purpose—on board the Orbis jet.

Awesome

"They are just awesome," Darcie Goodwin, Orbis senior manager for public relations, said of the Filipinos in the team.

Goodwin described Mercado, 50, as "an institution" in the 21-year-old global humanitarian organization.

Mercado has been a staff nurse with Orbis since 1966—the first male nurse that it accepted.

But his work there did not immediately take flight. His first application in 1991 was rejected because Orbis did not accept male nurses.

Mercado was working at the King Khalid Eye Hospital in Saudi Arabia when he met Dr. David Payton, the American ophthalmologist who founded Orbis.

In an interview on Tuesday during a press tour of the DC-10, which is parked at the Subic Bay International Airport, he recalled meeting Orbis' volunteer doctors and nurses and being inspired to join them.

"I like working with local hospitals in Third World countries," he said. "Coming from one myself, I know the needs they face, and it's heartening to be able to teach them to improvise, to be resourceful in order to treat the sick."

When Mercado resigned from the King Khalid hospital in 1996, he was again referred by a colleague to Orbis. He passed the tests with flying colors the second time around.

Making a difference

Abad, 42, explained work at Orbis: "Things are different here. Everyone has to work beyond his duties. But it's good to know you're making a difference in the lives of less fortunate people."

The man knows of misfortune, having had to try his luck in various countries to feed his family of five.

He lost his job as a biomedical engineer at the 13th Air Force Medical Center at the then Clark Air Base when the US bases pulled out in the early 1990s.

He subsequently found himself in Saudi Arabia, Germany, Malaysia and Thailand, installing all sorts of medical equipment and missing his family terribly.

When his last employer decided to assign him to South Africa, Abad made up his mind to quit and return home.

Again prompted by need, he searched for a job and found Orbis through the Internet.

For the past two years, Abad has been taking charge of all the devices and equipment used by the medical team in the aircraft.

He makes sure that the slit lamp, laser machines, and all other facilities are in shape for operations and demonstrations conducted for health workers under training by the Orbis staff.

The job is easy for him, he said, ophthalmic equipment being just "a small component" of what he used to handle, especially in Thailand where he almost single-handedly installed and monitored the equipment manufactured by his German employer.

But best of all is the privilege of regularly touching base, for free, said Abad.

"It means a great deal to be home at least four times a year," he said. "You can see your children grow up, and still go back to a job that means something to other poor people."

Calling the shots

Salillas, 41, a flight mechanic for 21 years, literally calls the shots because he decides when the aircraft is fit to fly.

"Even the pilots depend on you, so it's a huge responsibility," said Salillas, whom his two fellow Filipinos like to describe as the man who ensures their coming home safe.

But nobody worries because, as Salillas said, he knew "the condition of every fastener in this airplane."

He should.

Salillas was a quality engineer and inspector with the Singapore Aviation Authority when the Orbis DC-10 landed in the city state in 2000 for a C-check, a heavy maintenance inspection done on airplanes on a regular basis.

After a thorough inspection, Salillas gave the aircraft, one of the first DC-10s manufactured, a clean bill of health.

But just before the plane took off again, the organization managed to get the quality guy on board.

Since then, Salillas has flown to 32 countries with the Orbis mission.

100 kids a week

Studies show that around 100 children in the Philippines lose their sight every week, making about 680,000 blind Filipinos.

Almost half of these cases are said to be treatable or preventable, but poor nutrition and poverty hinder good vision.

Orbis' mission is to help visually impaired people in developing nations gain sight and to make sure that those with good vision do not succumb to blindness because of negligence. Its operations are supported by top courier FedEx.

Since it first took flight in 1982, Orbis has trained 63,000 eye experts and health workers, who in turn have treated an estimated 17.5 million people worldwide. It has conducted 550 programs in 82 countries.

The Orbis mission first landed in the Philippines in 1982, and has been back seven times since then, each time performing around 200 operations and screening some 300 Filipinos.

The team is here for a symposium of ophthalmologists opening today at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Around 50 eye experts from all over the world, led by Orbis chief ophthalmologist Dr. Carlos Eduardo Solarte, will discuss with Filipino doctors the latest advancements in the field.

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SUPERLOTTO 6/49

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Bomb scare in city park, LRT station

By Leila B. Salaverria

IT IS not unusual for street sweepers to find candy wrappers and fallen leaves as they go about their job, but a hand grenade lying on a pavement inside a park is definitely a startling discovery.

At about 6:30 a.m. yesterday, Angelita Dimanglig, a member of the Manila City Department of Public Safety, was sweeping in a park along the Muelle del Rio behind the Bureau of Immigration Building when she discovered an MK-2 hand grenade.

Upon inspection by agents of the Explosives and Ordnance Division (EOD) of the Western Police District, they saw the grenade wrapped in yellow tape.

Its pin was intact.

EOD agents said the grenade could have been left at the park by a member of one of the many gangs that roam the city.

Muelle del Rio, which lies along the Pasig River, had been a road used by public utility jeepneys that plied the Intramuros route. It has since been turned into a park.

Meanwhile, a black bag left behind at the United Nations Avenue station of the Light Rail Transit along Taft Avenue in Manila caused slight panic on Wednesday night.

The black thermos bag under the LRT station in front of the Blue Spirit gift shop was discovered by a passerby at about 10 p.m.

Bystanders had feared that the bag contained a bomb.

But when EOD agents inspected the bag, they only found 20 rounds of ammunition for a .38-caliber firearm.

They expressed belief that the bullets could have been left behind by an off-duty security guard.

Authorities said there was no connection between the grenade in Intramuros and the bullets found at the LRT station.

P1M for model barangay set

ORDERLY and garbage-free barangays in Quezon City can become the recipients of a P1-million grant for being model communities in solid waste management.

The prize is an incentive set by the local government to encourage barangays to manage their garbage to reduce volume and hauling costs. *Tina Santos*

BEAUTIES BY THE POOL

REUTERS

Miss Earth candidates wave to photographers during a press preview held Thursday in Manila. Women from 60 countries are vying for the title Miss Earth, who will be chosen next month.

Avoid colorum vehicles, LTFRB asks commuters

By Margaux Ortiz

RIDE only in public vehicles with yellow plates.

Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) head Maria Elena Bautista has issued this warning to commuters, emphasizing that people should only ride in public utility vehicles (PUVs) registered with the agency.

Bautista said LTFRB-registered vehicles have yellow plates or white plates with yellow stickers.

She also said colorum buses and jeepneys actually endanger people's lives because they do not have insurance coverage in case of accidents.

She also said that in the event of engine problems, passengers of LTFRB-registered buses could transfer to another bus belonging to the same transport group.

"Colorum buses do not offer the same intermodal advantages," Bautista said.

She also warned parents not to let their children ride in colorum school shuttles.

She said school buses and vans have to be registered with the LTFRB before they could operate.

Want a big tree? Buy one in QC

THE YEARLY "Bagsak Presyo" sale of plants and trees will be held starting today until Nov. 30 at the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation Environmental Center in Quezon City.

Buyers can avail of as much as 50 percent discount on fruit tree seedlings, saplings and big trees.

For the first time, MSBF is selling big trees, 8 to 15 feet in height only at P300 each.

The MSBF Environmental Center is in the corner of Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

You may call up MSBF Sales Office at telephone numbers 929-9312, 924-7001 and 924-7002 for more information.

Manila keen on Bangkok hawker setup

By Tarra Quismundo

ASIDE from traffic and squatting, Bangkok and Manila seems to have one more thing in common: Street vendors.

And the similarity may become even more closer, as Manila intends to take on its Asian neighbor's method of organizing its vendors.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said in a statement that the city can pick up a lesson or two from Thailand's capital after observing the system of street vending in Bangkok.

Atienza flew to Bangkok last Sunday for the 11th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders Summit, together with other Metro Manila mayors who attended the summit.

Atienza noted the discipline of vendors in Bangkok, as they clean up the surroundings of their stalls and even tell their customers not to throw litter on the streets.

He said he saw street vendors who were allowed to put up their stalls in front of a five-star hotel.

He noted that by 6 p.m., "the area (the vendor occupied) is already clear as if nothing happened."

The mayor, according to his spokesman Armand Sebastian, is bent on adopting a similar system in Manila, where there are around 20,000 street vendors.

"What we saw in Bangkok affirms our belief that the solution to street and sidewalk vending is not to drive away vendors but to organize and discipline them," Atienza said, adding that the vendors are merely trying to "earn a decent living."

MALAYAN INSURANCE CO., INC.
Yuchengco Building, 500 Quintin Paredes St., Binondo, Manila

TEXT-INSURE PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE POLICY

WHEREAS, The MALAYAN INSURANCE CO., INC. (hereinafter referred to as the "Company") agrees to provide for the eligible person described hereto in Section I, an accident insurance coverage for a period of twenty four (24) hours beginning on the date and time confirmed electronically by the Company, through an electronic commerce transaction hereby referred to as TEXT INSURE whereby the mobile phone user (hereinafter referred to as the "Insured") may apply for, purchase, and confirm their insurance coverage through the use of the text message capabilities of their mobile phones;

WHEREAS the Insured described in the Personal Information Sheet hereby attached and made an integral part of this Policy, being desirous of insuring himself in the manner referred to as TEXT INSURE, has registered with and purchased his insurance via TEXT INSURE and has declared truthfully and completely, and personally signed the said Personal Information Sheet which declaration it is agreed shall be the basis of the contract for the insurance hereby intended to be made and incorporated herein;

NOW THIS POLICY OF INSURANCE WITNESSETH that at any time during the said period wherein the Insured is covered by a validly purchased TEXT INSURE insurance, or during any subsequent period for which the Company may agree to renew the insurance, the Insured shall sustain bodily injury caused by violent accidental external and visible means which injury shall result in his death or disablement as hereinafter defined, the Company will, subject to the terms, provisos and conditions of and endorsed on this Policy, pay to the Insured or the person or persons specified in Proviso 3 the sum or sums of money specified in the Table of Benefits.

TABLE OF BENEFITS

BODILY INJURY caused by violent accidental external and visible means which injury shall result in:
1. Death occurring within twelve calendar months of bodily injury as aforesaid.
2. Permanent Disablement occurring within twelve calendar months of bodily injury as aforesaid and not followed within twelve calendar months of said bodily injury by the death of the Insured.

(Limit of Php 500,000 coverage at any one time regardless of the number of purchases)

TABLE OF COMPENSATION

COVERAGES	BENEFITS
Accidental Death	100%
Permanent loss of or loss of use of	
• Both hands or both feet	100%
• One hand and one foot	100%
• One hand or foot and sight of one eye	100%
• Sight of both eyes	100%
• One hand or one foot or sight of one eye	50%

Any bodily injury or disablement not specified above shall not be covered by this policy.

"Loss" as above used with reference to hand or foot means complete severance at or above the wrist or ankle respectively, and as used with reference to eyes, means total and irrecoverable loss of sight. If the Insured shall sustain more than one of such losses as a result of one accident, payment of the amounts shall be made only for that one loss for which the largest amount is payable. Losses sustained as a result of any subsequent accidents shall be considered for payment separately from and independently of other losses sustained in a previous accident. In any policy period, the aggregate amount payable under the Accidental Disablement Benefit with respect to any one or more accidents shall not exceed P 500,000. The amount of benefit payable for loss of life arising from independent, unrelated accident shall always be P 500,000 regardless of the amount(s) paid under the Accidental Disablement Benefit.

ACCUMULATION LIMIT

It is hereby understood that Ps 200,000,000.00 is the limit of indemnity for which the Company shall be liable under TEXT INSURE insurance for all the losses arising out of any one accident. In the event said limit of indemnity for any one accident is insufficient to pay the full amount of indemnity for each insured person, then the amount payable to each insured person shall be in proportion to the limit of indemnity for any one accident bears to the total amount of insurance that would have been payable.

I. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for insurance coverage:
1. The individual must be registered with and purchase his insurance via TEXT INSURE
2. The individual must be 18 to 65 years of age at the time of the insurance purchase
3. The individual must purchase his insurance coverage while within the Philippines
4. The individual must not purchase his insurance while in transit, i.e. in the process of traveling from one place to another, or in any location between the point of origin and the intended destination
5. The individual must not belong to the occupations listed under Section II – Exclusions
6. The individual must not be suffering from any physical disability or critical illness.

II. EXCLUSIONS

1. The Policy shall not apply to the following occupations:
acrobats, aircrew, airport maintenance, ambulance personnel, artists engaged in hazardous activities, asylum attendants, blasting, boiler, construction, demolition, and exterior building workers, detective, divers, film cameramen, firemen, fishermen, loggers, manufacturers/makers of ammunition, firework and explosives, military personnel, miners, news reporters/photographers whilst on duty, oil rig workers, paramedics, persons working at heights, policemen, politicians, professional drivers, professional sportsmen/women, quarry workers, sawmill workers, seamen, security guards, stevedores, structural steel workers, stuntmen, underground/underwater workers, workers of amusement/fairground, circus, zoo and wildlife parks,
2. The Policy shall not cover the disappearance of the Insured nor shall it extend to cover death or disablement by or happening through: a) bacterial infections (except pyogenic infections which shall occur through an accidental cut or wound) or infections caused by parasites; or b) medical or surgical treatment (except such as may be necessary solely by reason of injuries covered by this policy); c) miscarriage or pregnancy; d) suicide, self inflicted injury, or any attempt thereat; e) murder and assault, or any attempt thereat; f) war, invasion, act of foreign enemy, hostilities, or warlike operations (whether war be declared or not), mutiny, strikes, riots, civil commotion, civil war, rebellion, revolution, insurrection, conspiracy, military or usurped power, quarantine,; g) nuclear radiation or radioactive contamination; h) while participating in professional athletics or any organized and scheduled amateur physical contact sport; i) while engaging in but not limited to mountaineering requiring the use of ropes and guides, skin diving employing the use of compressed air cylinders, racing on wheels or horseback, skydiving from device for aerial navigation, hang gliding; j) cave in of mines; k) while under the influence of drug or alcohol; l) while committing or attempting to commit any crime, felony or other illegal act; m) while traveling in an aircraft other than one licensed for public passenger service and operated by a regular airline or a published scheduled flight over a regular air route between two definitely established airports and in which the Insured is traveling as a ticket holding passenger.

III. PROVISOS

1. Any fraud, misrepresentation, misstatement, or concealment in respect of this insurance, whether in electronic or in written form, of any claim shall render this Policy null and void and any benefit shall be forfeited.
2. Compensation shall be payable only when the entire amount of the claim shall have been ascertained and proven to the satisfaction of the company.
3. Indemnities for loss of life of the Insured is payable to the beneficiary indicated herein, if surviving the Insured, and otherwise to the estate of the Insured. All other indemnities of this policy are payable to the Insured. The receipt of such person or persons shall in all respect be an effective discharge to the Company.

IV. CONDITIONS

1. The insurance coverage shall commence upon confirmation by the Company, via text messages to the Insured, of all valid TEXT INSURE application and purchases. The confirmation text message will indicate the date and time of the commencement of the 24-hour insurance coverage and a unique Certificate of Coverage Number for every particular TEXT INSURE purchase.
2. This Policy, unless otherwise renewed, will have a fixed term of 24 hours. The insurance coverage shall terminate in the event of accidental death as provided therein, otherwise the Policy will automatically terminate after 24 hours from the date and time indicated in the confirmation text message sent by the Company to the Insured.
3. The Insured, at his option and subject to the terms and conditions herein, may renew his insurance coverage at any time by purchasing, via TEXT INSURE, another 24-hour insurance coverage. The Insured can only renew his insurance coverage once for every 24-hour period. This Policy is automatically renewed, without the need for re-application, every time the Company accepts and confirms the TEXT INSURE purchase.
4. This Policy includes the electronic TEXT INSURE text messages sent by the Insured to the Company and the attached Personal Information Sheet, and contains the entire contract of insurance. None of the provisions, conditions, and terms of this Policy shall be waived or altered except by endorsement, signed or initialed by an authorized official of the Company and issued in accordance with the provisions of Section 50 of the Insurance Code.
* 5. Written notice of injury on which claim may be based must be given to the Company within thirty days after the date of accident causing the injury. In the event of death, immediate notice thereof must be given to the Company.
* 6. Such notice given by or in behalf of the Insured, or beneficiary as the case may be, to the Company, at the City of Manila, or to any authorized agent of the Company, with particulars sufficient to identify the Insured, shall be deemed to be notice to the Company. Failure to give notice within the time provided in this Policy shall not invalidate any claim if it can be shown not to have been reasonably possible to give such notice and that notice was given as soon as reasonably possible.
7. The Company, upon receipt of such notice, will furnish to the claimant such forms as are usually furnished by it for filing proofs of loss. If such forms are not furnished within thirty days after its receipt of such notice, the claimant shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of this Policy as to proof of loss upon submitting within the time fixed in the Policy for filing proofs of loss or written proof covering the occurrence, character and extent of the loss for which claim is made.
8. Affirmative proof of loss must be furnished to the Company at its said offices in case of claim for loss within ninety days after submission of notice referred to in No.5.
9. All certificates, information and evidence required by the Company shall be furnished at the expense of the Insured or the Insured's legal personal representatives and shall be in such form and of such nature as the Company may prescribe. The Insured as often as required shall submit to medical examination on behalf of the Company at its own expense in respect of any alleged bodily injury. The Company shall in case of the death of the Insured be entitled to have a post mortem examination at its own expense. The Insured shall as soon as possible after the occurrence of any injury obtain and follow the advice of a duly qualified medical practitioner and the Company shall not be liable for any consequences arising by reason of the Insured's failure to obtain or follow such advice and use such appliances or remedies as may be prescribed.
10. The Company shall have the right and opportunity to examine the person of an Insured when and as often it may reasonably require during the pendency of claim hereunder, and the right and opportunity to make an autopsy in case of death where it is not forbidden by law.
11. The amount of any claim under this Policy for which the Company may be liable shall be paid within thirty days after proof of loss is received by the Company and ascertainment of the loss is made either by agreement between the Insured and the Company or by arbitration; but if such ascertainment is not had or made within sixty days after such receipt by the Company of the proof of loss, then the claim shall be paid within ninety days after such receipt. Refusal or failure to pay the claim within the time prescribed by the Monetary Board, unless such failure or refusal to pay is based on the ground that the claim is fraudulent.
12. All differences as to the amount of any loss arising out of this Policy shall be referred to the decision of an Arbitrator to be appointed by the parties in difference, or if they cannot agree upon a single arbitrator, to the decision of two arbitrators, one to be appointed in writing by each of the parties within thirty (30) days after having been required to do so by either of the parties, and in case of disagreement of the arbitrators, to the decision of an umpire to be appointed in writing by the arbitrators before entering upon the reference. The making of an award shall be a condition precedent to any right of action against the Company. If a claim be made and rejected and an action or suit be not commenced within twelve (12) months after due notice of the award made by the arbitrator or arbitrators or umpire, then the claim shall for all the purpose be deemed to have abandoned and shall not thereafter be recoverable hereunder.
13. No assignment of interest under this Policy shall be binding upon the Company unless and until the original or duplicate thereof is filed at a branch or the home office of the Company. The Company does not assume any responsibility to the validity of any assignment. No change of beneficiary under this Policy shall bind the Company unless consent thereto is formally endorsed hereon by the Company.
14. It is hereby declared and agreed that the provisions of Article 1250 of the Civil Code of the Philippines (R.A. 386) which reads: "In case an extraordinary inflation or deflation of the currency stipulated should supervene, the value of the currency at the time of the obligation shall be the basis of payment..." shall not apply in determining the extent of liability under the provisions of this Policy.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The Insurance Commissioner, with offices in Manila, Cebu and Davao, is the government official in charge of faithful execution and the enforcement of all laws relating to insurance and has supervision over insurance companies. The Commissioner is ready at all times to render assistance in settling any controversy between an Insurance Company and a Policyholder relating to Insurance matters.

In Witness Whereof, MALAYAN INSURANCE CO., INC. has caused this Policy to be signed by its duly authorized officer in the City of Manila, Philippines.

Yvonne S. Yuchengco
President

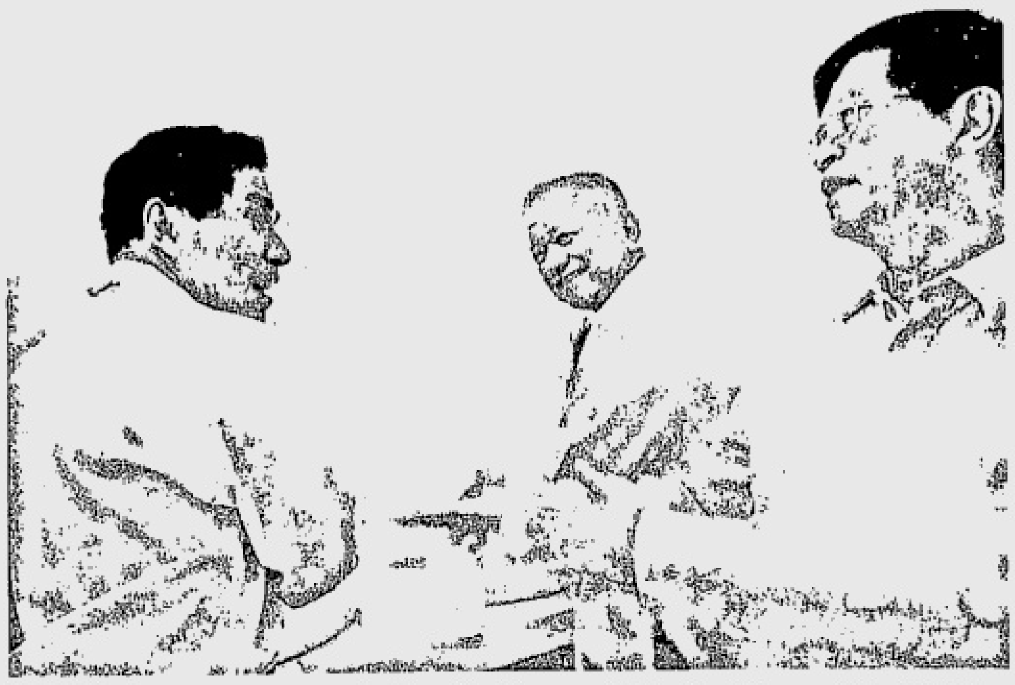
PERSONAL INFORMATION SHEET
Keep this policy, it will be required for insurance claims. NO SIGNED POLICY, NO CLAIMS.

Name	
Address	
Date of Birth	Date of Registration
Occupation	Beneficiary
Mobile Phone #	Passport #

I hereby warrant that I am not suffering from any physical disability or critical illness.

Signature
Alias
Date

P3



HEALTH Secretary Manuel Dayrit, Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus and Manila Water president Antonio Aquino inspect the water system at the Pasig City Central Elementary School during the launch of the Lingap Eskuwela Program. JOAN BONDOC

WATER-BORNE DISEASES

Students alerted on school water

By Luige del Puerto

THE TASK of ensuring that schools in Metro Manila have clean and safe drinking water will be given to the students themselves.

Yesterday, officials from the government and a Metro Manila water concessionaire signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that launched a pilot project aimed at making sure that water in schools in the metropolis are free from disease-causing germs.

But instead of doing all the work, health, education and Manila Water Company Inc. representatives will train students in testing the water available to them.

Under the MOU, the Manila Water will provide a test kit to each of seven schools initially included in the drive. A group of selected students would then be taught on how to use the kit.

Noel Ong of Manila Water said the kit would contain tablets which, if dropped into water, would show if it is safe or not.

Ong explained that if the water turned pink, it would mean that it had been chlorinated and thus safe for drinking.

Secretary Manuel Dayrit, who signed for the Department of Health, said the move was to address the high incidence of water-borne diseases among students.

Dayrit identified diarrhea and typhoid fever as among the diseases that have struck students in certain schools in the metropolis.

The officials chose the Pasig Central Elementary School as the pilot project because of its huge student population.

The school has 3,000 students.

Manila Water president Antonio Aquino said Manila Water would be identifying six more schools in eastern Metro Manila for the project.

Manila prepared for All Souls Day

THE MANILA City government yesterday announced that it had finished preparations for this year's commemoration of All Souls Day next week, when thousands are expected to visit their departed ones in the city-owned North and South cemeteries.

From traffic and security to peace and order, City Hall said that next Saturday would be "solemn and trouble-free."

In a statement, City Hall said that it would install 60 portable toilets in the North Cemetery, and 40 in the South Cemetery.

The public services department said it would deploy its clean up personnel to collect garbage and maintain cleanliness in the cemeteries.

Vendors will be regulated by the Manila Hawkers Management Committee.

Those who plan to put up stalls inside the cemetery must secure a permit from City Hall two days before Nov. 1, as the hawkers committee will prohibit those without it from vending even along the roads leading to the cemeteries.

The Western Police District will secure the two cemeteries.

Meanwhile, a rerouting scheme is being finalized to accommodate the heavy traffic on Nov. 1.

Bringing liquor, sound systems, and deadly weapons have been banned inside the two cemeteries.

Also banned are political streamers and materials. *Tarra Quismundo*

MSHT confab set in Baguio

THE Missionary Servants of the Holy Spirit and the Adorers of the Holy Trinity will hold its 4th National Convention on Nov. 7-9, 2003 at Teachers' Camp, Baguio City.

For details, contact Mo. Trina Barnillo at 936-82-68 or 0919-838-1440

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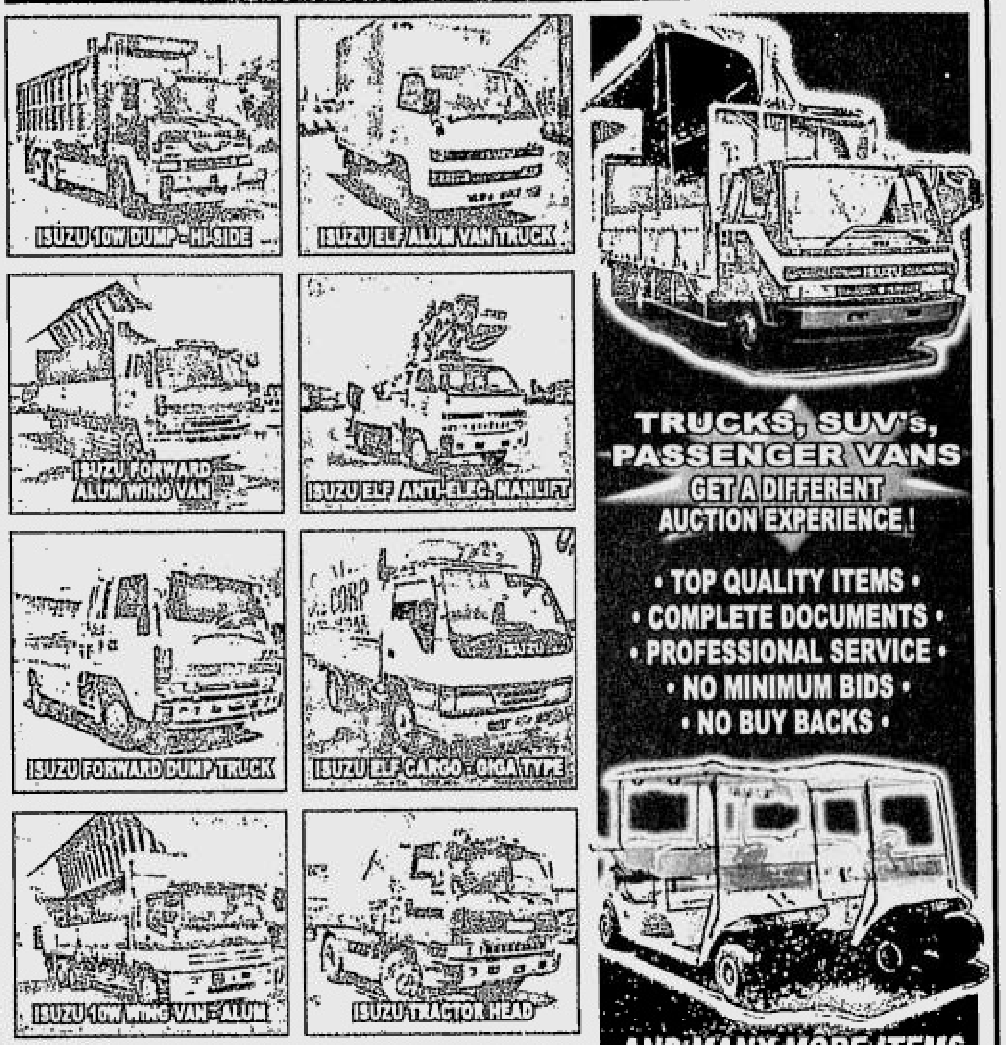
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2. You will receive a text message with the Passport # of your cell phone and instructions on how to buy insurance. Please save this message for future use.
3. You will be charged P 2.50 for the one-time registration.

IMPORTANT !

Please **READ, FILL OUT, & SIGN** the enclosed Malayan Text-Insure policy that will be published every Friday in this newspaper. You only need to register and sign the policy once. Keep this insurance policy, it will be required for insurance claims. **NO SIGNED POLICY, NO CLAIMS.**

HOW TO BUY YOUR ACCIDENT INSURANCE

1. After registering and signing the policy, you can now purchase your accident insurance, anytime and anywhere. Just text the following and send to 323: INSURE BUY *<Alias>* *<Passport #>*
   TEXT INSURE BUY TONY 1234 SEND TO 323
2. You will receive a text message confirming your insurance coverage with the date and time of effectivity and a Certificate of Coverage No.
3. You will be charged P 10.00 for the one-day insurance coverage.

CONDITIONS

1. You must be eligible and accept the policy terms and conditions.
2. You must be 18 to 65 years at the time of purchase.
3. Limit of one insurance purchase per cell phone per day.
4. One Cell Phone = One Passport # (assigned by SMART)
*5. Text Insure can only be purchased while within the Philippines.
*6. It is invalid to purchase insurance while in transit.
7. Text-Insure subscribers will receive on a periodic basis, Text-Insure messages.

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VICTIMS AND VOTERS President Macapagal-Arroyo listens intently as Pasay City fire victims relate their ordeal following Monday night's fire that left 1,517 families homeless. The President, who visited victims sheltered at the gutted BLTB bus terminal, promised to relocate them in Molino, Cavite.

VAL HANDUMON

Mayor Vicencio back in freezer

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

WITH only seven months more to go before the 2004 elections, Malacañang yesterday suspended Malabon City mayor Amado Vicencio for one year.

The suspension, Vicencio's third during his present and last term, cited the mayor for "abuse of authority" for paying P12.6 million in advance for a relocation site for residents to be displaced by the North Rail project.

Vicencio told the INQUIRER yesterday that he had not received a copy of the suspension order although he had heard about it.

"This is politically motivated," Vicencio declared.

According to a copy of the Malacañang decision given to the INQUIRER, the suspension stemmed from an administrative complaint filed by four Malabon City councilors against Vicencio several months ago.

Councilors Edilberto Torres, Luisa Villaroel, Venancio Sevilla and Payapa Ona had alleged that Vicencio committed dishonesty, abuse of authority, misconduct and gross negligence when he gave the advance payment to land owner Junjun Fishing Corp. (JFC).

But in the five-page decision signed by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Vicencio was cleared of charges of dishonesty, misconduct and gross negligence.

The decision stated that Vicencio violated Section 338 of the Local Government Code which provided that "no money shall be paid on account of any contract under which no services have been rendered or good delivered."

Vicencio made the payment even before JFC could comply with a contract provision to improve the land the city was buying.

The decision added that Vicencio violated another provision when he entered into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) without securing the proper certification of availability of funds from the city's chief accountant.

For making a down payment not approved by the city council, Vicencio is getting three months suspension. Another three months suspension will be served for Vicencio's failure to secure the necessary certification before entering a MOA.

For "causing injury to the government," Vicencio is given another six months suspension.

Canon

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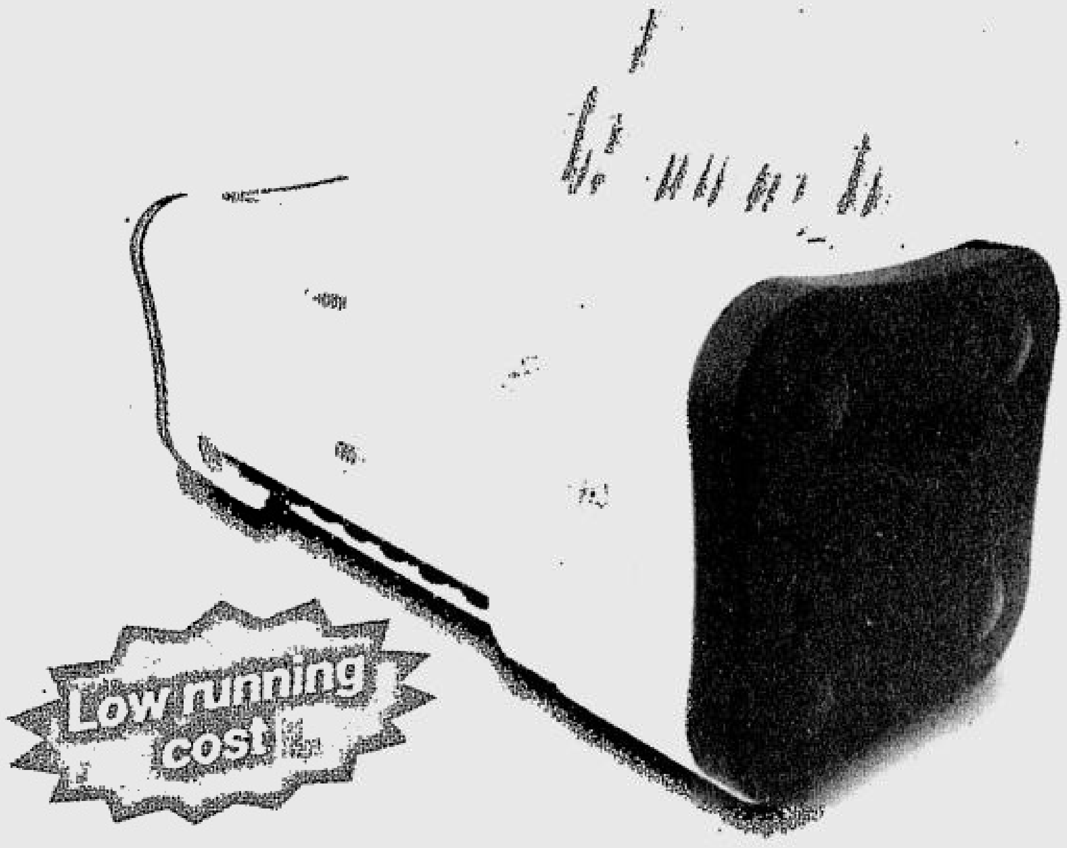

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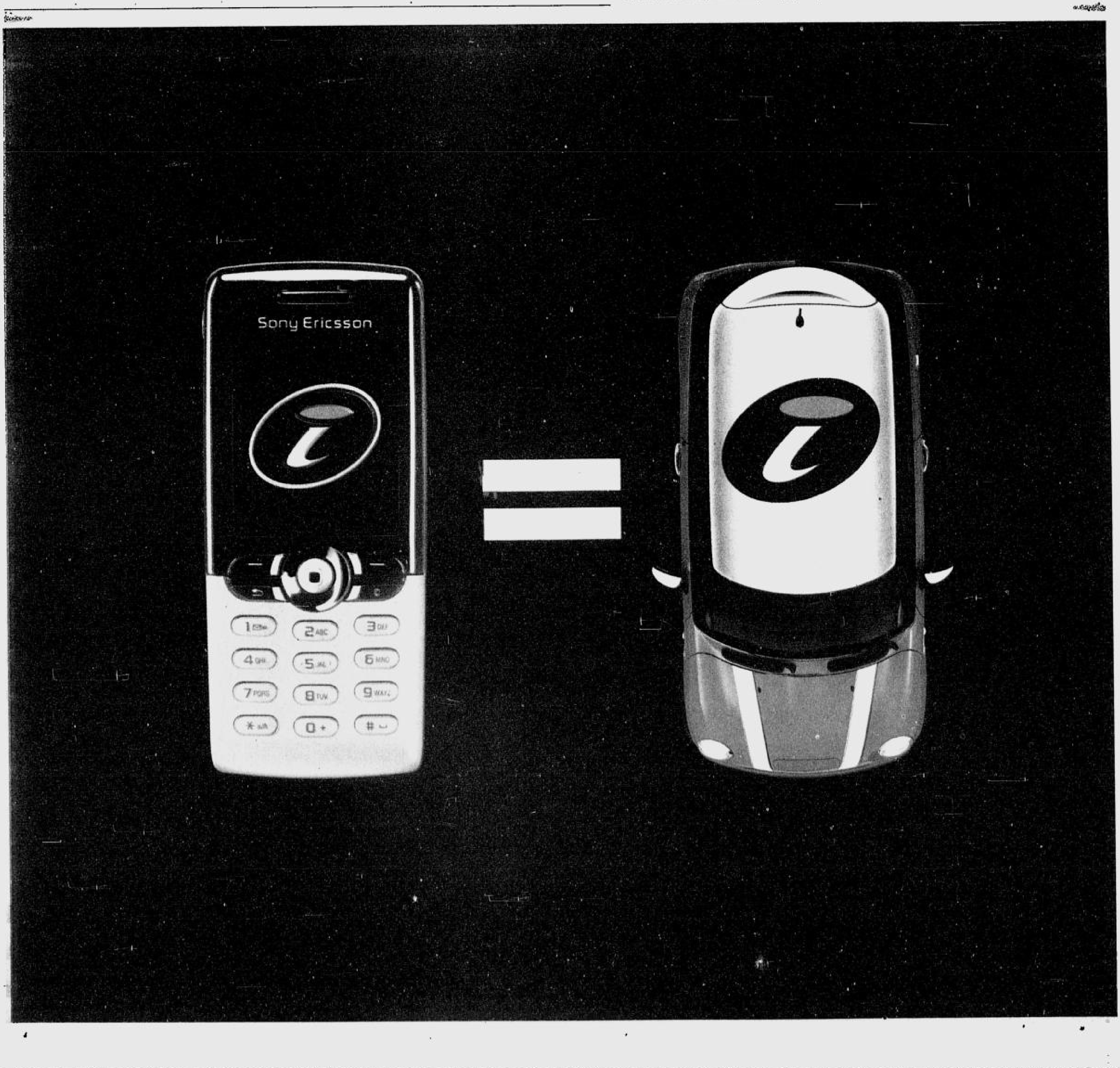

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

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Compiled by L. Manguiat

HORSE RACING: The Breeder's Cup 2003; tomorrow at 2 a.m.; Solar Sports - Catch the live airing of one of the most anticipated horse races.

BASEBALL: MLB World Series 2003 Game 5; 7:30 a.m. (r); ESPN - It's down to a best-of-three for

BASKETBALL: NBA Pre - season; - Rockets vs Spurs; 8 a.m. (r - 9 p.m.); Solar Sports - Houston and San Antonio engage in an all-Texas duel as the start of the regular season is just days away.

DAVAO City's Norton Alamar, the Games' most bemedalled athlete. EDWIN BACASMAS

MINDANAO GAMES

Davao City virtual champ

MATI, DAVAO ORIENTAL—Davao City sustained its balanced drive with 16 gold medals yesterday and virtually retained the overall championship on the penultimate day of the third Mindanao Friendship Games here.

Scoring on all fronts, Davao City pulled away beyond recall with a total of 53 golds on top of 55 silver and 42 bronze medals with still a day left in the annual event staged by the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) to boost sports development in the south.

Iligan City, the team Davao City nipped for the overall title last year in Cagayan de Oro, could only clinch three gold medals but held on to second place with a gold-silver-bronze collection of 29-21-29.

Davao Oriental, which proved an able host to some 4,000 athletes and officials from 42 local government units in Mindanao, also distinguished itself on the playing fields by moving up to third with a 21-14-34 medal tally.

DAVAO CITY/ A28

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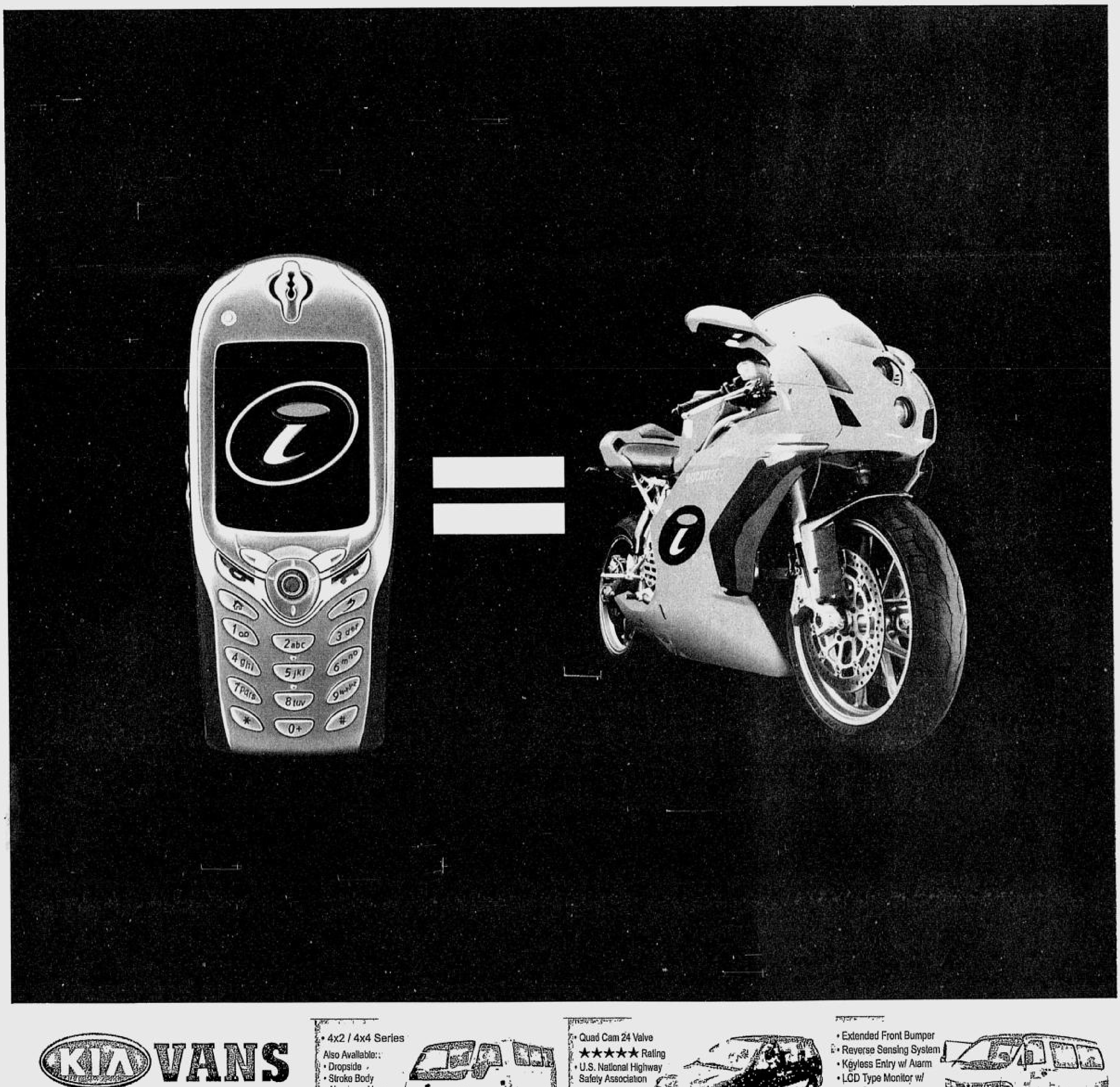

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SIGNET

FedEx in must-win game vs SLR

STANDINGS	W	L
Group A		
x-Sta. Lucia	6	4
Alaska	4	6
San Miguel	4	7
FedEx	3	8
Purefoods	3	8
Group B		
x-Coca-Cola	11	1
x-Red Bull	8	2
x-Talk N Text	6	5
x-Ginebra	6	5
Shell	3	8

x-Quarterfinalist

GAMES TODAY
(Makati Coliseum)
5 p.m.—Red Bull vs Shell
7:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs FedEx

ONLY Federal Express is under pressure to win when the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference resumes with a doubleheader today at the Makati Coliseum.

And the slumping Express will be facing no less than Group A leader Sta. Lucia Realty at 7:30 p.m. in their bid to halt a three-game skid and regain the upperhand over the idle Purefoods Hotdogs in their duel for the last qualifying slot in the group.

Unable to find a worthy replacement for the injured Vergel Meneses, the Express bowed to the Hotdogs Wednesday and fell into a tie with their latest tormentors at 3-8.

If FedEx loses and Purefoods beats SLR this Sunday, then the Hotdogs would be in a vantage position to make it to the next round.

Although the Realtors have already made it to the quarterfinals, they might just go for a victory to atone for their overtime loss to the Alaska Aces, the No. 2 team in Group A at 4-6 last Sunday.

The opener is virtually no-bearing with Red Bull Barako (8-2) facing the ousted Shell squad (3-8) at 5 p.m.

The Turbochargers bowed out of the tournament following a loss Sunday to Barangay Ginebra, which used the win to advance to the Group B quarterfinals along with Talk 'N Text. The Barakos (8-2) have earlier qualified along with Group B pacesetter Coca-Cola (11-1).

With Meneses recuperating from a hamstring injury he sustained in practice more than a week ago, the Express fell prey to the Hotdogs, who now have two straight wins after losing six in a row.

Young Purefoods slotman Kerby Raymundo battles "The Rock," Asi Taulava of Talk 'N Text at the start of the semifinals of the King of the Court one-on-one tournament. *June Navarro*

Eala wants new format, wider int'l campaign

By June Navarro

IF THE Philippine Basketball Association can compete in the 2006 Asian Games, why not play in the World Basketball Championships as well?

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala has raised this possibility before the board of governors in an effort to maximize the participation of the league in the international basketball scene.

The world cage stint was contained in a 19-page proposal he submitted to the PBA board where he batted for restructuring the league's format and calendar to check the rapid decline in attendance during the games.

"Assuming the PBA maintains its commitment to the Asian Games in 2006, this means a team must be formed again by that year," said Eala.

"Quite interestingly, the next World Basketball Championship also happens on the same year. Since we will be forming a national team anyway, why not play in the WBC as well," he added.

The Fiba board has recently approved in principle to increase the number of participating countries in the WBC from 16 to 24.

The decision, however, is still subject to final discussions with the local organizing committee of the 2006 edition in Japan.

From a single Asian slot in the past, WBC organizers have now allocated four slots for the continent with the host country, Japan, already assured of a seat.

"This means the three slots for this region could be a tossup among China, South Korea, Lebanon and possibly, the Philippines. For us to make it, we have to finish at least third in the ABC tournament to be held in 2005," said Eala.

Eala stressed that a stint in the prestigious World Basketball Championships and perhaps, the Olympics, will have a major impact on the success of the PBA.

His vision of bringing the nation to the world basketball map coincides with the changing of the PBA's format and synchronizing its calendar with the Fiba.

Eala is batting for a one-championship season beginning in October and ending in May with the "international basketball months" of July to September as off-season.

During the off-season, an invitational tournament will be held where the PBA-backed national team, selected PBA ballclubs and national quintets of other countries can compete.

"This adaptability of our schedule can help improve our chances to be more competitive and prepared for the international commitments which we intend to join without unduly risking our own gate attendance due to the exodus of stars from their mother teams and disruption of the PBA season," Eala explained.

FLASHY Coca-Cola import Lenny Cooke drives off Yancy de Ocampo of FedEx in the game the Tigers won, 90-84, Wednesday. Cooke led all scorers with 39 points. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Ilocos-Spring tiff opens NBL caging

SAN PABLO CITY—Basketball takes center stage here today when the Panasonic NBL Regional Cup 2003 unwraps at the Florante Aquino Stadium.

Two teams which count with veterans and talented youngsters—newcomer Ilocos Sur Snipers and Spring Cooking Oil-San Pablo Lakers—clash at 5 p.m. after the opening ceremony.

NBL chair Christian Tan will give an inspirational message. Other guests are Mayor Florante "Boy" Aquino, Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga, Ilocos Sur Gov. Deogracias Savellano, Laguna Gov. Teresita Lazaro, Panasonic Phils. president Rodolfo G. Perez, Adamson University president Fr. Jaime Belita, Molten Basketball president Anil Buxani and Tony Fabico.

Seven other teams are vying in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic, BJ Star Logistics, Sulpicio Lines, Molten Basketball, Nature's Spring and Vaporin. These are defending champion Ozamiz City, Forward Taguig, back-to-back titlist M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala-Cebu, Pampanga, Adamson-Vaporin, MayniLA and Negros.

SPORTSWATCH

Reyes defends World Pool League title

EFREN "Bata" Reyes of the Philippines opens defense of his title in the World Pool League slated Oct. 24-26 in Warsaw, Poland. The 49-year-old Reyes, who recently won the Fuijairah 9-ball World Classic in the United Arab Emirates at the expense of compatriot Francisco "Django" Bustamante, faces 1996 US Open champion Rodney Morris in the first round of the event offering a total pot of $50,000. Also seeing action are former World Pool champion Oliver Ortman of Germany, Hui-Kai Hsia of Taiwan, reigning world pool titlist Thorsten Hohmann of Germany and Malta's World Pool Masters king Tony "Tornado" Drago. ***NM Marlon Bernardino***

IMC holds Sportsfest and Family Day

THE INTEGRATED Montessori Center (IMC), which has its main office at Phase IV, AFPOVAI, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, will hold its Sportsfest and Family Day on Sept. 28 at the Philippine Sports Commission Gym (formerly Ultra). Highlighting the occasion are the cheering and field demonstration competition among the different levels. Chair Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission, the event's guest of honor, will deliver the inspirational message. The event is designed to enable the students to be well-rounded, not only mentally, but also physically and socially. This will also give the entire IMC community the opportunity to spend quality and pleasant time together.

Beta Sigma President Cup golfest

THE UP Beta Sigma fraternity President Cup golf tournament will be held today at the Villamor Golf Club in Pasay City starting at 7 a.m. This year's honoree is fraternity founder lawyer Rico Arranz, a respected businessman-contractor and civic leader. This was announced recently by the UP Beta Sigma Alumni Association president, DENR Undersecretary Ramon Paje. Proceeds of the event will go to the Association's scholarship and outreach programs through its Makati chapter. Interested parties may call 813-2105 or 832-1167.

Ateneo routs San Beda, gains semis

DEFENDING champion Ateneo routed San Beda, 11-2, last Sunday to gain the semifinals of the Metro Manila Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football tournament at the De La Salle Zobel field in Ayala Alabang. Former three-time national titlist DLSZ, Southridge and Xavier also dumped their respective rivals to join Ateneo in the semifinals. The DLSZ boys whipped Claret, 12-1; Southridge ripped La Salle Greenhills, 9-2; and Xavier blanked Colegio San Agustin, 5-0. Semifinal action unfurls on Nov. 9 with DLSZ facing Xavier and Ateneo meeting Southridge at the Ateneo field.

Ruel breezes past Barte in San Pablo

FAVORITE Rolando Ruel Jr. breezed past Ralph Kevin Barte, 6-0, 6-2, yesterday to reach the quarterfinals of the third Escudero Cup Tennis Championships at the AERA Tennis Club in San Pablo City, Laguna. Ruel will meet the winner between fifth seed Michael Mora III and Kyle Dandan. Second seed Alexander Lazaro downed Yannick Guba, 6-4, 6-2, to advance against sixth seed Luisito Clores, who rallied past Ricardo Lagac Jr., 5-7, 6-3, 6-4. In other matches, No. 3 Elberto Anasta won by default over Gabby Remigio to advance against No. 10 Joel Palao, a 6-3, 6-2 winner over No. 7 Roland Kraut, while No. 4 Rocky Paglalunan defeated Joseph Arcilla, 6-3, 6-1, to advance against No. 8 Chiemel Mantua, who scored a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Nico Riego de Dios.

Zambo breeders try to rekindle old glory

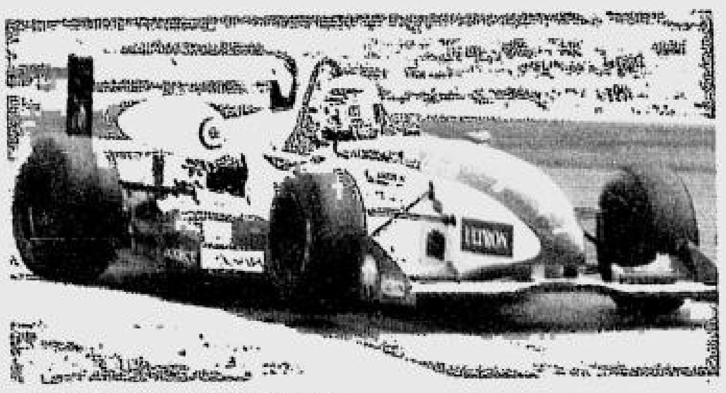
COCKERS from the newly formed Zamboanga del Norte Gamefowl Breeders Association (ZNGBA) and the Zamboanga Gamefowl Breeders Association (ZGBA) dispute honors in the regional eliminations of the Bakbakan 2003 National 8-stag Derby on Oct. 25 at the Dipolog Coliseum in Dipolog City. The ZNGBA breeders, backed by Thunderbird Power Feeds, makers of Thunderbird Platinum, are out to rekindle the popularity they enjoyed during the prime of cocker Boy Primalion when the Zamboanga whites were the most sought-after fighters on the local cocking scene. Formed only last June, the group is headed by Antonio B. Aseniero and vice president Rogelio Martinez. The Zamboanga City-based ZGBA, led by Manny Dalipe and Bobby Fernandez, are expected to give its sister team a tough fight in the 3-stag elimination event. The winners will advance to the National Derby, slated at the Araneta Coliseum on Nov. 22, 24 and 26.

Pasay City Cockpit 4-stag derby today

PASAY City Cockpit's "Huling Hirit 4-Stag Derby" gets going at 7 tonight with more than 60 fights lined up. Derby sponsors are Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Mite Free and Sagupaan B-50 Forten. Hosts Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola said guaranteed prize is P300,000 for an entry fee of P7,700. The champion handler and gaffer gets P20,000 and P10,000 respectively. Interested parties may contact 843-1890 and 843-1746. Slated Oct. 31 is another 3-stag derby to be hosted by PCC management. For a low entry fee of P3,300, the guaranteed prize is P150,000. Official screener is pit manager Eric dela Rosa.

Stagfighter of the Year race tight

WHO will bag the coveted United Cockers Association of the Philippines' (UCAP) Stagfighter of the Year title? The winner will be known on Oct. 27 and 29, when the "3rd UCAP 7-Stag Derby" gets underway at the Araneta Coliseum. Derby hosts Jet Fernando of Pampanga and Alex Tang of Bicol have guaranteed a blockbuster grand event as they confirmed the support of UCAP and NCA members as well as luminaries from other cockfighting centers. Participants are reminded to submit entries on Sunday, Oct. 26, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum green gate. For inquiries, contact 911-3101 and 911-2928.



FILIPINO RACE DRIVER
Asian Formula 3 (AF3) driver Roland Hermoso of Speedtech Asia-Petron hopes to bring home the AF3 championship from Beijing on Oct. 25-26. Hermoso placed fourth overall in the recent AF3 championship in Autopolis, Japan.

Angeles U cagers upset Maroons in Unigames

ANGELES University Foundation provided the first upset in the basketball eliminations of the University Games by nipping University of the Philippines, 71-70, yesterday at the Palaruang La Salle in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Jerome Alonzo struck with a three-pointer from the top of the key with four seconds left as the Angeles City-based Great Danes came from behind to nip the Maroons.

The DLSU-Dasmariñas five exploited its homecourt advantage to overwhelm St. Louis University, 86-61, as Tito Reyes scattered 27 points. Not to be outdone, DLSU-Manila blasted Ateneo de Zamboanga University, 72-63.

Meanwhile, University of the East and San Beda College narrowly escaped defeats the other day at the Orchard Golf and Country Club gym.

The Warriors nipped University of Assumption, 77-75, as its rival blew six free throws in the final quarter.

The Lions also needed a three-point shot to nose out Çollege de la Purisima Conception, 75-74.

In other games, Adamson University clobbered University of St. La Salle, 79-35, and Emilio Aguinaldo College-Manila outplayed Baguio Colleges Foundation, 69-53,

Paragua beats 3 GMs, rules France chess

FILIPINO IM Mark Paragua won the 22nd Saverne Marathon Rapid Tournament held in Saverne, France last Oct. 19.

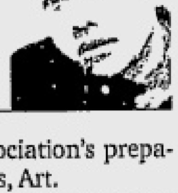
Paragua drew his last game against Helstoffer of France to score 30 points out of a possible 32, a full point ahead of his nearest rival in the 20-minute per player tournament.

Paragua, the 1998 World Rapid Under U-14 champion, posted 29 wins, 2 draws and one loss and, at 19, became the youngest winner of the event, which lured 168 players this year.

Among Paragua's victims were 1993 world junior champion super GM Igor Miladinovic of Greece, former Russian junior champion GM Andrei Schekachev and GM Giorgi Bagaturov of Georgia. His only loss came at the hands of Croatian GM Mladen Palac. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Valid gripe

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

IN contrast to reactions of other people, I always consider gripes as sources of most good things in life. With a gripe, a wrong can be righted outright. You keep a plaint, you simply allow a problem to grow into overblown proportions.

Let's take the case of shooting, which hit the headlines recently.

Therese Cantada, a consistent medallist in the SEA Games, has said that a shooting tournament held recently had failed to deploy competent range officers to rule on each shot fired. She said she had scored 10-10-10-9-9=48, but the target officer had instead recorded 10-10-10-10-9=49.

She also said that the Philippine National Shooting Association has failed to address the problem of lack of guns and ammunitions for aspirants training for the Vietnam SEA Games this December.

"I was just doing what every athlete is supposed to do," said Cantada, whose brother, Gerard, was a former world junior golf champion and now a successful teaching golf pro. "And that is, that I should raise a valid concern for I feel that would redound to the benefit of the athlete and our country."

To be transparent, Cantada put her gripes in writing and sent them to Art Macapagal, the shooting president.

"We are not favoring anybody," Macapagal told the INQUIRER.

With due respect, Art, nobody's saying somebody's favoring anybody.

What Cantada's merely saying is, we should look into possible loopholes that might hamper your association's preparation for the SEA Games, Art.

I have known the Cantadas that long—from the late Joe Cantada, the king of sportscasting, to his brother, Boy, now the proud owner of the Cantada Sports Complex in Bicutan which houses a state of the art basketball court, boxing gym, driving range, badminton, etc. I have seen Gerard grow from his short pant days as a jungolf sensation to the time that he represented the country in many international golf competitions. I can say that all through the years that they've been rendering service to the nation, of which Therese still does till today, they have only one trait guiding them: Passion for excellence.

It is commendable that in the wake of this row, chair Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission has come forward and bought .22 caliber and rifle ammunitions for use in the Vietnam Games. Arsenic Lacson, Buhain's spokesman, said shotgun ammunitions are also on the way.

That's what I was saying all along. You raise a valid gripe, you will most likely receive positive results. And certainly, Therese Cantada's plaint was valid.

It is my wish that Art Macapagal, a dear and respected brother of President Macapagal-Arroyo, would take things in stride, not only this time but all the time.

I know that Therese Cantada has been officially named a member again of the RP Shooting Team for Vietnam long before she made her expose. If, by dint of bizarre twists, she should lose her slot because of what she had done, I will hold Art Macapagal accountable. However, knowing Art to be an honorable man, he'd never do such a stupid thing. One coming from a family of Presidents—two at that—like Art himself, he could not afford even a teeny-weeny bit of foolhardiness.

So for Art's sake, hold your fire, fellas. Art will never soil the Macapagal name in the name of vengeance.

Slap on face to cost Itoy cool million

MAGSANOC

ESGUERRA

A SLAP on the face will cost former professional cager Angelito "Itoy" Esguerra P1 million pesos and some time in prison.

The Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 15 of Manila has found Esguerra guilty of slander by deed for slapping Ronnie Magsanoc, another former cager and now Purefoods assistant coach, on the face on Oct. 23, 1995.

In her decision, presiding judge Sarah Alma Lim slapped on Esguerra, who had stints with Crispa, Manila Beer, Tanduay and Shell in the PBA, "the penalty of one month and one day of *arresto mayor* as minimum to one year and one day of *prision correccional* as maximum."

Lim also ordered Esguerra to pay Magsanoc, who played for Shell, Sta. Lucia and Purefoods, moral damages amounting to one million pesos for the sleepless nights and humiliation he suffered due to the slapping incident.

The law firm of Fortun, Narvasa and Salazar handled the case for Magsanoc.

But lawyer Nicanor Gatmaytan, Esguerra's legal counsel, said in a statement they would be "filing a motion for reconsideration with motion to inhibit the presiding judge in order that no prejudgment will be made in the resolution of the motion for reconsideration."

Gatmaytan said the decision against Esguerra was contrary to law and the evidence, stressing that Magsanoc did not present any witness while Esguerra had presented a corroborative witness.

In his complaint, filed on Oct. 30, 1995, Magsanoc said the slapping incident occurred Oct. 23 before an exhibition game between Shell, where he was then a player, and the Philippine team, where Esguerra was then an assistant coach.

Loyzaga, Trinidad Scoop guests

BASKETBALL will be the topic in today's Scoop Sa Kamayan at the Kamayan Restaurant on West Avenue in Quezon City.

Basketball great Carlos Loyzaga, Nick Jorge of the court-recognized Basketball Association of the Philippines Inc. and Philippine Basketball League commissioner Chino Trinidad have been invited to grace today's session, sponsored by Photokina Marketing. The session will be aired live over Sports Radio at 11 a.m.

Miñoza a stroke off Bridgestone Open golf lead

BIRDIES on the last four holes gave Frankie Miñoza a six-under-par 66 yesterday and a share of second place with four others, just a stroke behind the joint leaders, in the $1 million Bridgestone Open in Chiba, Japan.

After bogeying the second and third holes, Miñoza riddled the 7,208-yard Sodegaura Country Club with eight birdies to line himself up for a shot at the $200,000 winner's purse. He is bidding to end a two-winless spell since his victory in the Fujisankei Classic in May 2001.

Daisuke Maruyama and Tetsuji Hiratsuka both carded 65s to lead Miñoza's group.

Meanwhile, Tommy Manotoc placed second, four shots behind winner Mohd Sukree Othman Rashid of Malaysia, in the recent 67th Open Amateur Championship of Hong Kong at the Discovery Bay Club course. *Jong Arcano*

LASCUNA: One bogey in 54 holes.

EASTRIDGE CLASH

Lascuna paces Casas by 3

By Jong Arcano

TONY LASCUNA missed a four-foot putt for an eagle on the 18th hole yesterday but his 12-point romp from six birdies still boosted him to a three-point lead after the penultimate round of the P1 million Eastridge Invitational in Binangonan, Rizal.

Lascuna went bogey-free for the second day in a row and pulled ahead of the favored Cassius Casas with a 25-point total for three days at the up-and-down Eastridge Golf Club course.

He made three birdies on Tuesday and got four more the next day as he continued to show the form needed to shine under the tough Stableford scoring system.

He will try to win the first pro event to use the points system as a format and the lion's purse of P150,000.

Casas, who had a three-point payback resulting from a four-putt blunder on the 16th in the second round, got back on track with 12 points for solo second at 22.

Just four points off the lead at 21 was Benjie Magada, who led most of the day with a stirring five-birdie effort on the front nine.

But third-round leaders co-leaders Dan Cruz and Elmer Salvador lost their chances of winning.

Cruz picked up three points and slid down to fifth at 17, right behind Carito Villaroman, who had 18, while Salvador ended up at minus 9 for the day and fell to joint ninth with Korean Hanjin Min.

The 30 survivors of the second cut-off did not include the man fancied to win here, Rey Pagunsan. His minus 13 on Wednesday proved too heavy to carry and his 3 points were not enough to get him through.

Also missing the last-round bus were Eddie Bagtas, Ramon Brobio, Rodolfo Cuello and Peter Miñoza.

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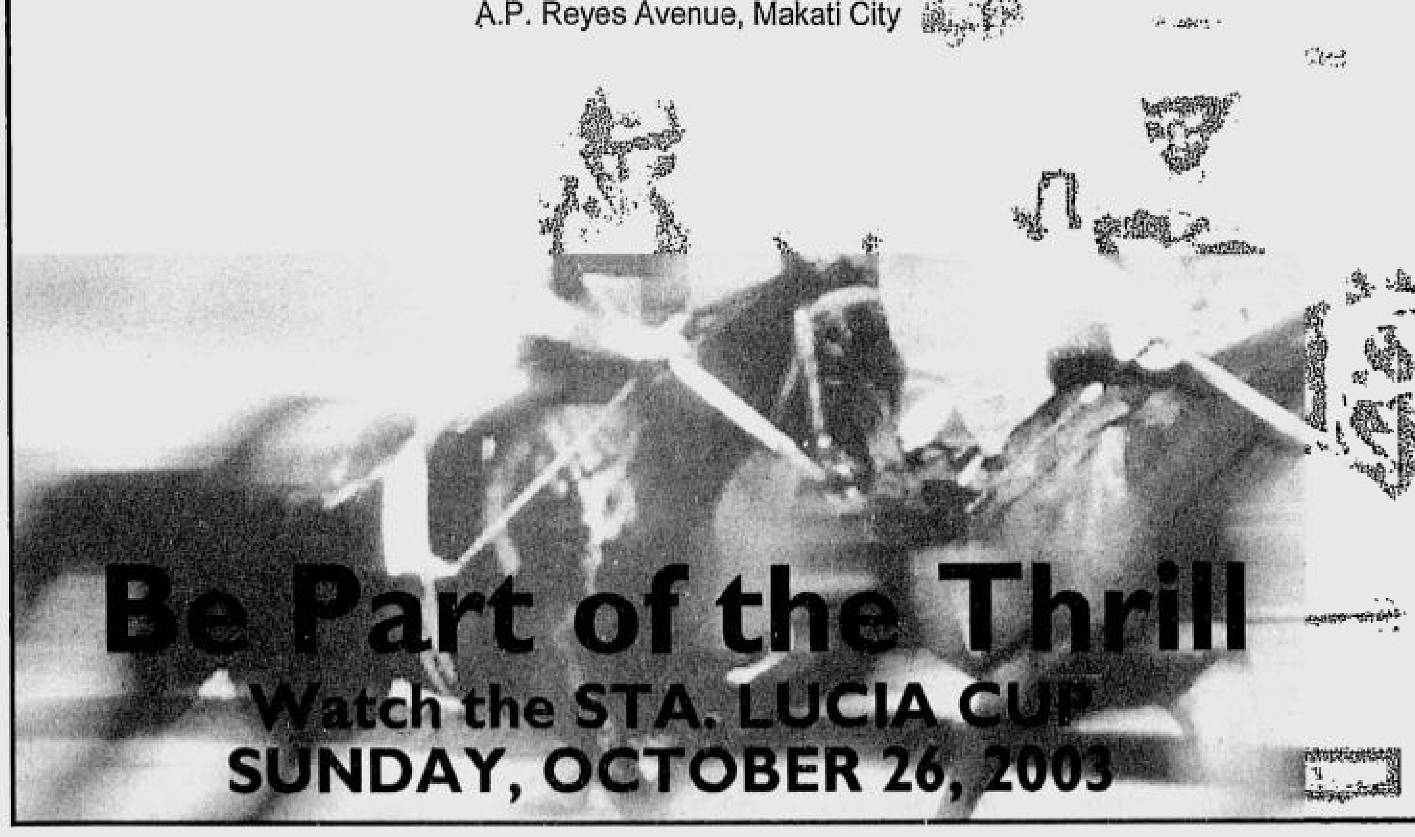

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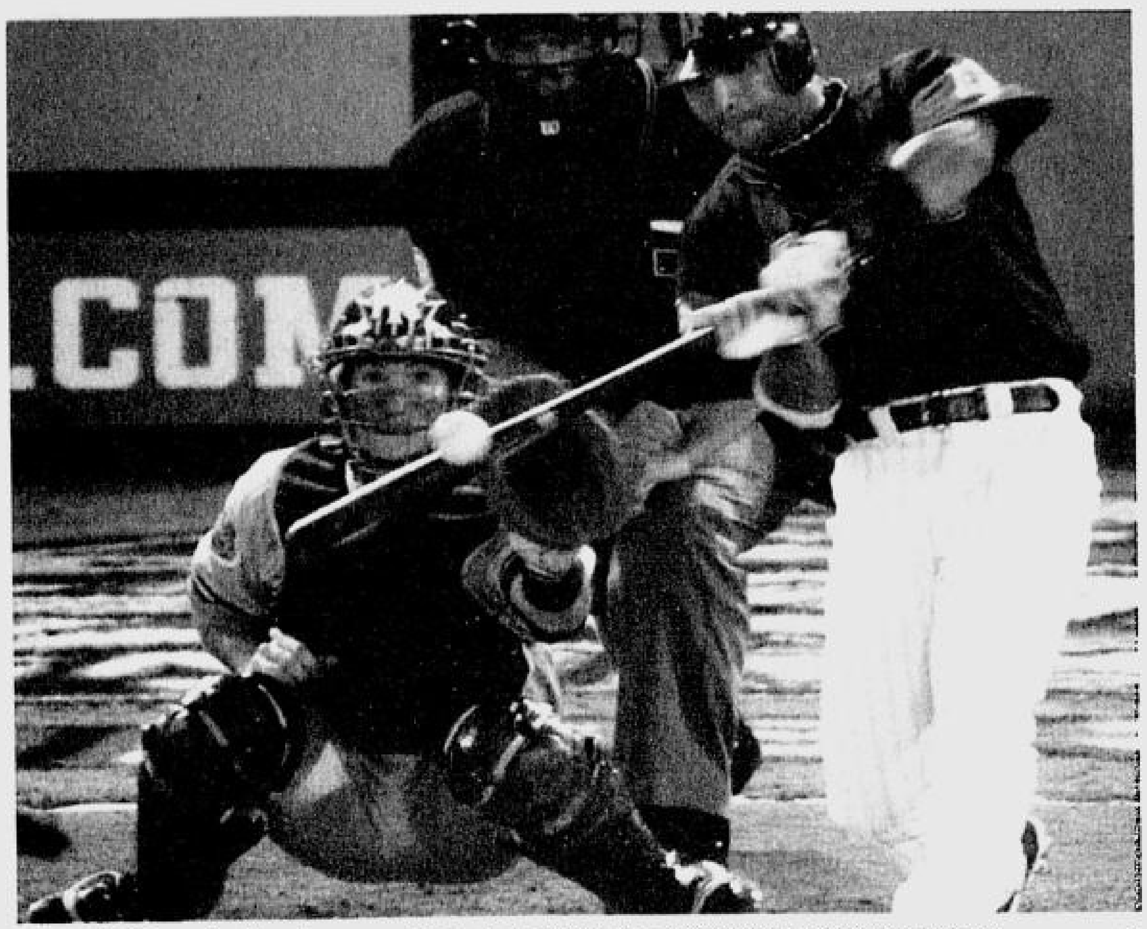


MARLINS' Gonzalez hits the game-winning home run in the 12th inning against the Yankees. AP

GONZALEZ HOMER

Marlins subdue Yanks, tie series

MIAMI—Alex Gonzalez hit a leadoff homer in the bottom of the 12th inning to give the Florida Marlins a dramatic 4-3 win over the New York Yankees in Game Four of the World Series Wednesday.

The best-of-seven series is tied 2-2, with Game Five back at Pro Player Stadium Thursday before the Fall Classic moves to Yankee Stadium on the weekend.

Gonzalez lined a 3-2 pitch from reliever Jeff Weaver over the left field wall to finish a marathon which lasted four hours three minutes and send the crowd of 65,934 into a frenzy.

"I'm so excited for that, to hit a home run in the World Series," Gonzalez told reporters.

The Yankees tied the game with two runs in the top of the ninth and loaded the bases with one out in the 11th but failed to score on reliever Braden Looper, who pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings for the win.

Weaver took the loss after entering the game to pitch a perfect 11th inning before allowing Gonzalez's homer.

"I was so happy to see him (Gonzalez) hit the home run to win the game because he had been struggling," Florida manager Jack McKeon said.

"Maybe this will be just the tonic that he needs." It was a tonic for the Marlins, who led 3-1 in the top of the ninth with two outs only to let the Yankees tie the game.

The Marlins were one strike away from ending the contest in the top of the ninth but a two-out triple by pinch-hitter Ruben Sierra down the right field line off reliever Ugueth Urbina tied it up.

It also saved Roger Clemens from a loss in his final major league start. *Reuters*

Graceful exit for NY superstar pitcher

MIAMI, Florida—New York and Florida were in the middle of a heated World Series battle on Wednesday but that was all forgotten for a few minutes when Roger Clemens walked off the field.

The Yankees' superstar pitcher was leaving the game in the seventh inning of the final start of his Hall of Fame career. Clemens plans to retire at the end of the 2003 World Series.

"It was great," said Clemens, who also hit his first ever World Series single in the fifth inning. "At that point everything seemed to be in a little bit of slow motion."

Clemens bowed out gracefully, striking out Marlins' Luis Castillo to end the inning in front of a night-time crowd of 65,934 at Miami's Pro Player Stadium.

It was the fifth strikeout of the game for Clemens who has 310 career victories and 4,099 regular season strikeouts in a 20-year career.

It was one of the strangest spectacles in World Series history and it came in the middle of a four-hour marathon won by Florida 4-3 on Alex Gonzalez's walk off homer in the 12th inning.

Time seemed to freeze in the seventh as thousands of flashbulbs lit up the stadium and players on both teams stopped what they were doing to applaud Clemens on his way to the Yankee dugout.

The Florida fans honored him with a standing ovation and didn't stop cheering until Clemens emerged from the dugout for an encore.

"You look over and it's the World. Series and you see the opposition standing and applauding. I think that's quite a tribute to him," said New York manager Joe Torre.

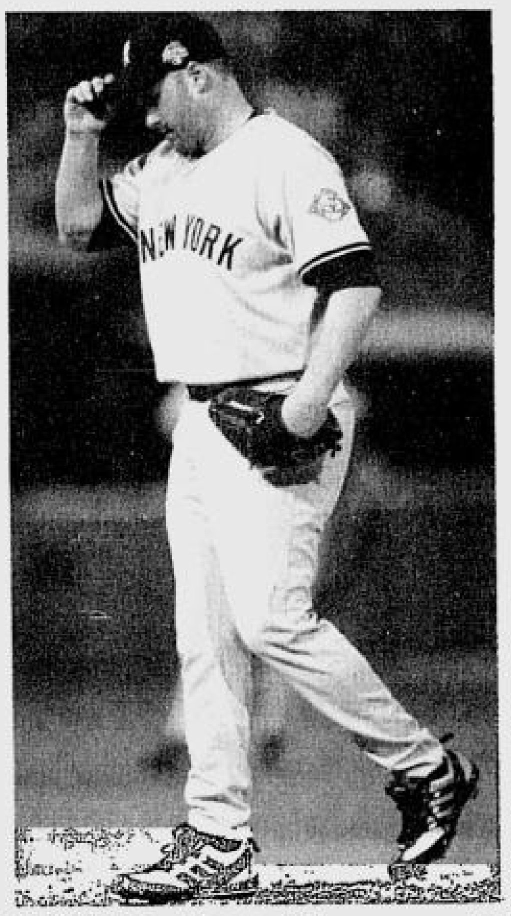
"When I see Pudge (Marlins' catcher Ivan Rodriguez) standing at home plate applauding I thought that was memorable." The 41-year-old Clemens allowed five hits in the first inning but it didn't take him long to find his groove.

It looked for a while like Clemens was headed for a loss before New York rallied in the top of the ninth to tie the game 3-3 on pitch hitter Ruben Sierra's two-run triple.

In seven innings of work, Clemens allowed eight hits and gave up three runs.

It wasn't the dominating performance fans are used to seeing from Clemens but it was indicative of how he wants to be remembered. After his final out, Clemens' teammates rushed to him give him pats on the back.

He waved his glove to the crowd and disappeared into the dugout only to return briefly to the field moments when the cheering wouldn't stop. *AFP*



CLEMENS: Last time to pitch. AFP

Taiwan ousts US from World Baseball Cup

HAVANA—Chih-Sheng Lin hit a home run in the seventh inning Wednesday to help Taiwan advance to the semifinals of the World Baseball Cup after beating the United States 2-1.

The United States was eliminated from the competition.

Taiwan also scored in the third after Wu Chao Kuan reached on a hit and advanced to second on a sacrifice. Hsien-Ming Chan then drove in Kuan.

For the Americans, Darren Blakely hit his third home run of the tournament at the end of the sixth inning.

But the United States missed a chance to score in the first inning when Rolando Avila was called out at home while trying to score on a hit by Harold Berrios.

Avila collided with catcher Sheng Isai Weng, who fell down, struck his head and had to be carried out on a stretcher.

"I'm really disappointed by this loss," United States coach Martin Scott said. "I didn't think we could lose with any team but I have to give credit to Taiwan's pitchers."

The United States was using college players and former professionals who have been released.

In the semifinals, Taiwan will play either Brazil or Cuba. *AP*

Woods eyes mark in Disney Classic

WOODS: In sight.

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida—Tiger Woods will attempt to match Byron Nelson's PGA record for making consecutive cuts here when the Disney Classic opens Thursday, although Woods' streak has come a bit easier than Nelson's did.

Woods will equal the PGA record here Friday if he makes his 113th cut in a row, matching Nelson's effort from the 1940s.

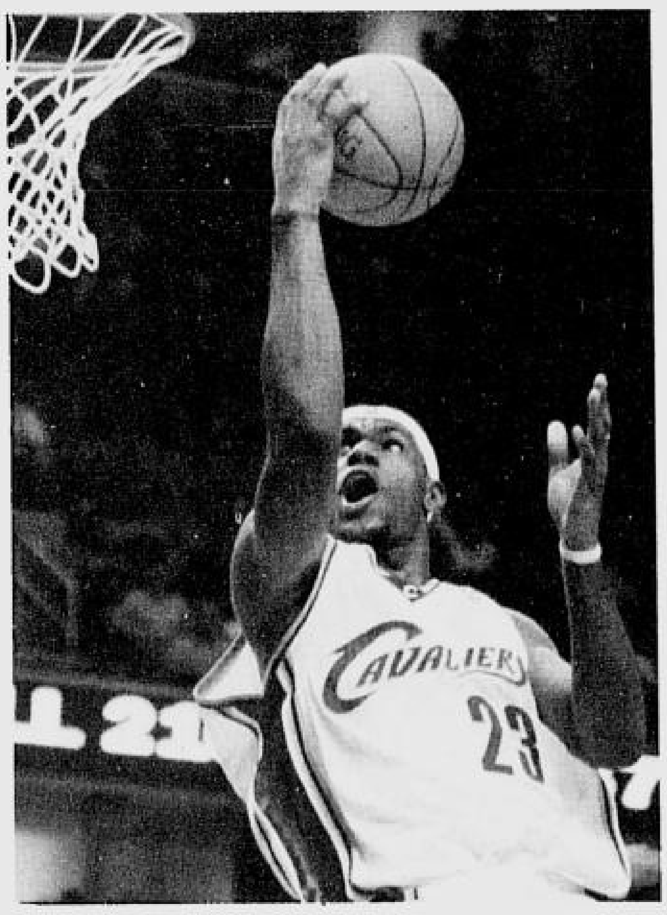
But Tiger's run in the money, which began in 1997, includes 22 events that do not feature a cut. The Disney event, which has a field of 144 and a 36-hole cut Friday, did not have a cut last year with a smaller lineup.

And the event where Tiger would technically surpass Nelson's record, next month's PGA Tour Championship in Houston, has only the year's top 30 money winners and no cut. Nelson, 91, had no such events in his era.

Still, Woods has not missed a weekend in five years. And the next-longest active streaks of cuts made on the tour are 26 by South Africa's Ernie Els and 18 by Fiji's Vijay Singh.

"I do not ever bag it," Woods said. "You have to fight. There are days you feel terrible, you wish you were in other places because you are playing so poorly, but you somehow figure out a way to score." The only missed cut for Woods since turning pro in 1996 came at the 1997 Canadian Open. He began the streak at his next start, the 1997 Disney Classic.

Woods nearly got cut at this year's Masters, but came through to keep the streak going. *AFP*



CLEVELAND Cavaliers' LeBron James soars to the basket against the Washington Wizards Wednesday. James scored 19 points in the Cavaliers' 108-92 win. AP

Unruffled Bryant set to play vs LA Clippers

EL SEGUNDO, California—Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant is looking forward to his first game since being ordered to stand trial for sexual assault and undergoing knee surgery.

"It's my eighth year in the league—too many years in the league to be nervous," he said after practice Wednesday.

Coach Phil Jackson said he plans to start Bryant in the exhibition game against the Los Angeles Clippers in Anaheim on Thursday night and play him in "eight- to nine-minute bursts."

"There's a natural timeout in the first quarter, and I'll take him out of the game and see how he does in the second session in the first half and go from there," Jackson said.

It will also be the first time Bryant will play with Karl Malone and Gary Payton, free agents who signed with the Lakers during the summer. With center Shaquille O'Neal, it gives the Lakers four potential Hall of Famers.

Bryant said his goal for the game is "to build the rhythm as a unit."

He said he agreed with teammate Derek Fisher's assessment that he was at 75 percent of his best level. Bryant said his trainer told him he would not be 100 percent until December.

On Monday, Bryant was ordered to stand trial for sexual assault. A 19-year-old Eagle, Colorado, hotel employee alleges he sexually assaulted her in his room on July 1. Bryant, who was in Colorado for knee surgery, says they had consensual sex.

The 25-year-old Bryant, free on $25,000 bond, faces four years to life in prison or 20 years to life on probation, and a fine of up to $750,000. His next court appearance is Nov. 10.

Meanwhile, Washington Wizards forward Jerry Stackhouse has undergone arthroscopic surgery on his troublesome right knee. "The doctors tell us that the surgery was successful and that they performed the necessary procedures to address the discomfort in Jerry's knee," Wizards president of basketball operations Ernie Grunfeld told reporters Wednesday. *Reuters AP*

FOREIGNBITS

Paradorn exits in Stockholm Open

STOCKHOLM—Top seed and defending champion Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand suffered a surprise first round exit at the Stockholm Open when little-known Dutchman John Van Lottum beat him 7-5 6-1 on Wednesday. Dutchman Raemon Sluiter and Swede Joachim Johansson also caused upsets by beating Chileans Nicolas Massu and Fernando Gonzalez, seeded third and fourth, respectively. *Reuters*

Beckham suffers hamstring injury

MADRID—David Beckham could be ruled out of Real Madrid's Primera Liga match against Racing Santander this weekend after aggravating a troublesome hamstring in Real's 1-0 win over Champions League rivals Partizan Belgrade here Wednesday. Beckham said he first felt the strain in the 2-0 league win over Celta Vigo on Saturday. *AFP*

Chambers stands to lose $3.4M

LONDON—Top British sprinter Dwain Chambers is set to lose around two million pounds ($3.4 million) if he is dumped by sponsors after testing positive for a banned drug. Chambers' lawyer admits the European champion failed an out-of-competition test for the banned steroid THG on August 1 but denied the 25-year-old Londoner had taken it willfully. *AFP*

Indy driver dies after crash

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—Indy Racing League driver Tony Renna suffered fatal injuries here Wednesday during a crash with his new team during a tire test session at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, track officials said. The 26-year-old American crashed in the third turn of the famed 2 1/2-mile oval in his debut with Chip Ganassi Racing. *AFP*

Avon 3K women's run hits road Sunday

A 3K run exclusive for women called Me and My Mom Against Breast Cancer and presented by Avon Cosmetics, Inc. will be held this Sunday at the CCP grounds in Pasay City.

Organized by the Avon Teen Advisory Council, the event aims to help raise funds for the upkeep of the Philippine General Hospital Breast Care Center which Avon helped built last year with its donation of a mammography machine.

Prizes will be at stake for the top three overall winners, the top three mom finishers and the winner of the Mom and Daughter category.

Registration fee is P75 while entry fee for students is P40. Registration is still being accepted until tomorrow, Saturday, at the ground floor of the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg., on Annapolis St. in San Juan.

Co-presenting the event is the Philippine Cancer Society with marathon organizer Rudy Biscocho supervising the run.

Avon's Teen Advisory council is a group of 13 exceptional teenage girls representing various private secondary schools in Metro Manila. Avon formed the council to get to know teens better and be able to come up with products, services and corporate programs that will truly answer what teens need and want.

"Through Avon, we learned that breast cancer spares no one and that awareness and early detection are the best cure. This 3K Fun Run is our way of spreading the word on breast cancer. We hope that our fellow teens will join and that they will bring along their moms, aunts, sisters and friends," Teen Advisory Council member Pauly Quiza, a senior from St. Scholastica's College, said.

Davao City virtual champ

From page A25

Zamboanga City, despite its near-sweep of the poorly attended weightlifting competition the other day, slipped to fourth with 18-14-10 followed by General Santos City with 14-17-12.

Cagayan de Oro City stood sixth with 12-11-15, followed by Koronadal 10-12-9, Lanao del Sur 7-7-7, Panabo City 7-6-2 and Bukidnon 7-3-9 to complete the magic 10 of the first of two major games the PSC is staging this month.

A day after the curtains fall on the MFG, another sports spectacle—the Palarong Pambansa—kicks off up north in Tubod, Lanao del Norte.

Winning gold medals for Davao City were cyclists Ruel Casaljay (1:08:51.97) in the men's 50-km criterium and Nitzel Montebon in the women's 25-km criterium (35:34.38); the men's baseball team which beat Tagum City, 13-1; Romeo Timcang in billiards' 9-ball; and Natasha Briosos (women's minus 52 kg) and Jennifer Ong (women's minus 70 kg) in judo.

Iligan City's gold medalists for the day were Fernandito Pialan in the seven-round men's chess competition and Michelle Anne Tibagcay (1:02.09) in women's 400 meters in athletics.

The other winners were Malaybalay's Cresenciano Sabal (33:21.56) in the men's 10,000 meters and Norman Chan (57.41) in the men's 400 hurdles, Zamboanga's Virfranz Sardea (51.01) in men's 400 meters and Davao Oriental's Alvin Sahagun in men's pole vault in athletics; Misamis Oriental's Loreshyll Cuizon in women's chess; Zamboanga del Norte's Ricky Gumatan in the 8-ball in billiards; and Tagum City's Anecia in women's minus 57 kg and Panabo City's Lou Ann Trazo in women's minus 63 kg in judo.

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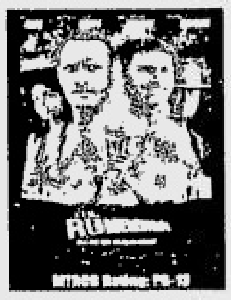

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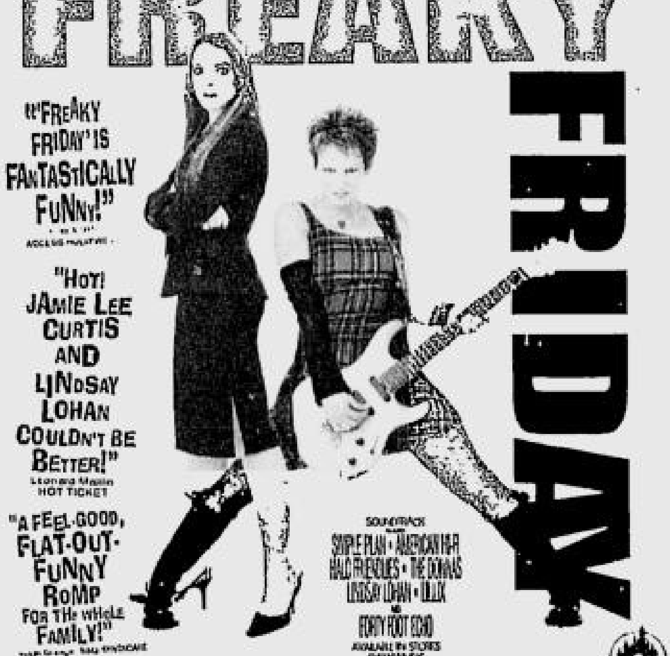

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The album includes "If You're not the One" by Daniel Bedingfield from "Maid In Manhattan," "Out of Reach" by Gabrielle from "Bridget Jones' Diary," "Dream a Little Dream" by Beautiful South from "French Kiss," "Up Where We Belong" by Joe Cocker and Jennifer Warnes from "An Officer and a Gentlemen," "Unchained Melody" by The Righteous Brothers from "Ghost," "When You Say Nothing at All" by Ronan Keating from "Notting Hill," "Pretty Woman" by Roy Orbison from "Pretty Woman," "The Sound of Silence" by Simon and Garfunkel from "The Graduate," "How Do I Live" by Trisha Yearwood from "Con Air," "Love is All Around" by Wet Wet Wet from "Four Weddings and a Funeral," "The Windmills of Your Mind" by Dustry Springfield from "The Thomas Crown Affair," "California Dreamin'" by The Mamas and & The Papas from "Forrest Gump."

"Love Scenes" from MCA Universal is available at all music shops.

Mariah Carey...

From page A31

Initial reports had said Carey was coming, followed by other reports that said she was not coming anymore. The producers earlier said the singer would no longer go on a six-city Asian tour because two of the countries in the tour, Malaysia and Thailand, had no available venues for her show.

Tickets to "Charmbracelet Tour 2003" are P2,500, P1,500 and P500.

Marinel R. Cruz

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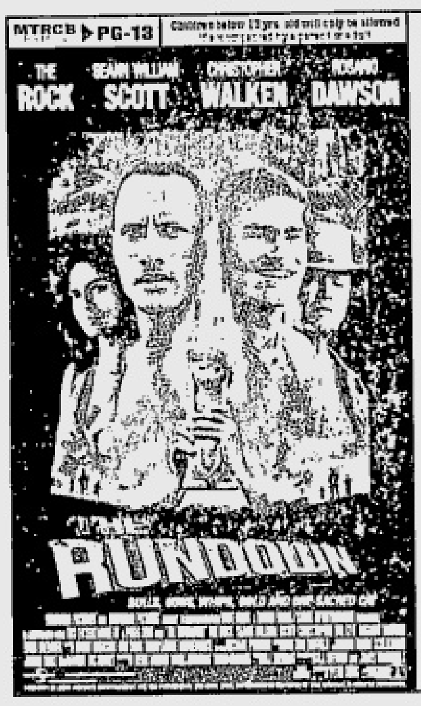

New Int'l Action Superstar is born!

Wrestling champ The Rock, next Schwarzenegger in 'RUNDOWN'?

Seven-time world wrestling champion The Rock (SCORPION KING, THE MUMMY RETURNS) is star of THE RUNDOWN, a spectacular crowd-pleasing, no-holds-barred, jungle-action adventure, and the No.1 movie in America.

The testosterone-packed movie launches The Rock as an International Action Superstar a la Arnold Schwarzenegger. Schwarzenegger shows his support for The Rock as the politics- bound action hero appears briefly in the slam-bang action comedy.

The Rock (or Dwayne Johnson) is Beck, a bounty hunter assigned to retrieve a wise-cracking double dealer played by Seann William Scott (Stifler in the American Pie movies), who is on a treasure hunt deep in the Brazilian jungle.

The Rundown features The Rock in a series of jaw-dropping fight scenes, including an eye-popping rumble in the jungle with our very own Ernie Reyes Jr., Fil-Am martial arts champion.

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"CHRIS ROCK rules!
— Fox News Channel

HEAD of STATE

Chris Rock stars as Mays Gilliam, a Washington D.C. neighborhood Alderman, who's about to be red-lined out of his job. But after the untimely death of the party frontrunner, Gilliam is plucked from obscurity and thrust into the limelight as his party's nominee — for President of the United States.

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UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN

"Lane has once again given an Academy Award - worthy performance!"
— Paul Clinton, CNN

35 year-old writer Frances Mayes perfect life takes an unexpected detour. Her recent divorce leaves her with writer's block and her best friend suggests 10 days in Tuscany. On a whim, Frances buys a villa there to start fresh. As she flings herself into her new life, she finds new friends and new romances. Can this be what she dreamed of? Will love last under the Tuscan sun?

NOKIA · INQUIRER

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 BELPHEGOR	1 HEAD OF THE STATE	ArtFilm 1 SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 HEAD OF THE STATE 12 25, 2 35, 4 45, 6 55, 9 05, 11 15	THX 1 THE RUNDOWN
2 THE RUNDOWN	2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING	2 THE RUNDOWN 11 45, 2 00, 4 15, 6 30, 8 45	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 THE RUNDOWN 12 45, 3 00, 5 15, 7 30, 9 40, 12 00	2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER 12 00, 2 00, 4 00, 6 00, 8 00, 10 00, 12 00	REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 FREAKY FRIDAY 1 05, 3 20, 5 15, 7 10, 9 05, 11 00	3 FREAKY FRIDAY
4 HEAD OF THE STATE	4 MATCHSTICK MEN		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 1 30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30, 11 30	4 BELPHEGOR
	5 UNDERWORLD		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 MY BOSS'S DAUDHTER 2 00, 4 00, 6 00, 8 00, 10 00, 12 00	5 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
	6 THE RUNDOWN			
	7 FREAKY FRIDAY			

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4 GOLD (DTS ES) FREAKY FRIDAY
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX) MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
6 GOLD (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX) AMERICAN PCYCHO
8 UTANG NG AMA
9 THE SUSPECT
10 BELPHEGOR

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3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
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2 THE RUNDOWN
3 KIKAY

Starmall Movies
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(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
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2 BELPHEGOR
3 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE RUNDOWN
5 BUGBOG SARADO

METROPOLIS Star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 KIKAY
3 UTANG NG AMA
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 BOSS'S DAUGHTER
6 BELPHEGOR

M Star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004
1 THE RUNDOWN
2 UTANG NG AMA

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503
CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 FREDDY VS. JASON

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515
1
2
3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21
1 THE RUNDOWN
2 UTANG NG AMA
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (SDDS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 UTANG NG AMA
6 BUGBOG SARADO
7 (DTS) BELPHEGOR
8 (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN
9 (DOLBY) MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364-3701
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 UTANG NG AMA
4 (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN
5 BELPHEGOR
6 (DOLBY) MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
7 (DTS) THE RUNDOWN
8 KIKAY
9 KISKISAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
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1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 (SDDS) MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 (DTS) UTANG NG AMA
4 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
5 KIKAY

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 UTANG NG AMA
2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 (DTS) BELPHEGOR
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5 (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN

Universal
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(Cubao) tel 911.7888
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MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 THE RUNDOWN
2 UTANG NG AMA
3 BUGBOG SARADO
4 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
2 BELPHEGOR
3 KIKAY
4 UTANG NG AMA
5 BUGBOG SARADO

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
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Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 879.2029
1 KIKAY
2 UTANG NG AMA

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4 (SDDS) RUNDOWN
5 (DTS) BELPHEGOR
6 THE SUSPECT
7 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

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Cinema 2000 Target Mall
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3 (DTS) THE RUNDOWN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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1 UTANG NG AMA
2 (DTS) MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
4 HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
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2 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
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4 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 BASIC
2 MEDALLION
3 (DOLBY) 2 FAST 2 FURIOUSE
4

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(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 FREAKY FRIDAY
2 MEDALLION
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4 (DTS) AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
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Lianas Cinema
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3 (DTS) UTANG NG AMA
4 THE RUNDOWN

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5 TREK

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2 BUGBOG SARADO
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Olivarez Los Baños
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1 THE RUNDOWN
2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 UTANG NG AMA

Mega Center Mall
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1 AMERICAN PIE THE WDDING
2 UTANG NG AMA
3 (DTS) BUGBOG SARADO
4 (DOLBY) THE SUSPECT

Cabuyao
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1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
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2 UTANG NG AMA
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 MATCHSTICK MEN
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 UTANG NG AMA

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03
1 (DOLBY EX) THE RUNDOWN
2 THE SUSPECT
3 (DTS ES) MATCHSTICK MEN
4 HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121
1 HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
2 THE SUSPECT
3 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
4 (DTS) MATCHSTICK MEN

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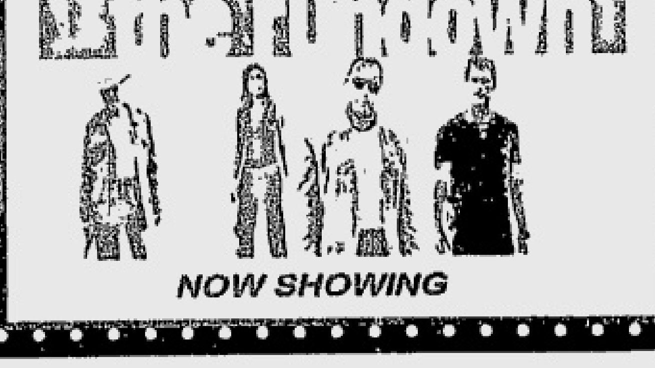

NOW SHOWING

Mariah Carey coming to Manila–for now

SHE'S coming. She's not coming. Now she's coming again...

American singer Mariah Carey is coming to Manila to perform at the Fort open field in Taguig on Nov. 16, according to MTV Philippines and Tommy Hilfiger Watches, producers of her "Charmbracelet Tour 2003" in Manila.

The producers said Carey's American handlers decided to bring her to Asia after all because they were able to reach their six-city target.

MARIAH/ A30

Make way for Tony Shalhoub

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN we watched the 55th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards recently, we were surprised when the coveted trophy for Best Actor in a Comedy Series was awarded to **Tony Shalhoub.**

Tony *who*?

It turns out that Shalhoub is the star of the new series, "Monk," which started telecasting last year on the USA cable network. That explains why it's not as well-known as some other sitcoms.

Not to worry, "Monk" is now being shown every Tuesday at 9 p.m. and 12:30 a.m., and every Wednesday at 3:30 a.m. and 12 noon, on Star World.

In the series, Shalhoub is cast as homicide detective Adrian Monk. After his wife is killed, he develops an irrational fear of germs. that hampers his work and private life. But he continues to solve cases as a private consultant, with the help of his nurse, Sharon Fleming (**Bitty Schram**).

Prior to his Emmy award, Shalhoub was nominated for a Tony for his performance in the play, "Conversations with My Father." And he won the Best Supporting Actor award from the National Society of Film Critics for his role in "Big Night."

Before playing the title role in "Monk," Shalhoub made a strong impression on viewers as a cab driver in the "Wings" series. Now that "Monk" has made him the man to beat on the sitcom scene, we can expect Shalhoub to become more popular and rack up more achievements in 2004.

Dream combinations

Some film people were discussing dream star combinations recently. Here are some of their inspired brainstorms:

Sharon Cuneta and **Maricel Soriano** as young widows trying to get a new lease on their romantic lives.

Susan Roces and **Boots Anson-Roa** as the Marasigan sisters in "Larawan" ("Portrait of an Artist as Filipino").

Aga Muhlach, Charlene Gonzales and **Gretchen Barretto** in a love triangle.

Nora Aunor and **Vilma Santos** as lifelong rivals.

Dawn Zulueta and **Ai-Ai de las Alas** as twins.

Willie Nepomuceno, Tessie Tomas, Jon Santos, Andrew E and other impersonators in a satire on the private lives of the country's top political leaders.

Mahal, Mura and Dagul in a "miniature" comedy love triangle.

Dolphy and **Vhong Navarro** (some people believe he's Dolphy's heir) playing father and son in a comedy-drama.

Any other star combinations *you* want to see on the big screen?

Filipino animators

At a recent meeting with a visiting film personality from abroad, the promising future of animated movies was an instructive topic of discussion.

Everyone agreed that Filipino animators are among the best in the world, so we should be making our own animated features for both local and international release.

Unfortunately, no local producer appears to be willing to invest the P70 million or P80 million needed for a full-length animated film. The problem is, it takes years to produce an animated feature, so the producer's investment would be "sleeping" for that long a time—a prospect that daunts the producers we've talked to regarding this.

But producers should remind themselves that an animated feature can make much more than live-action films, especially when it is bought for screening abroad. Even better, animated movies can be reissued every five years or so, resulting in even more profits for their producers, with no extra costs aside from a budget for a new round of publicity.

So, we continue to hope that a producer will finally see the light and bankroll the first big Filipino animated feature. The animators are ready, all they need is the financial backing and the long-range vision.

Action premieres

Every Tuesday at 10 p.m. on the AXN Action Channel, the Golden Globe winner, "The Shield," has lead actor **Michael Chiklis** playing a brutal, self-serving cop who plays by his own rules.

Featuring an elite team of police officers who dispense their own brand of vigilante justice on the lawless, "The Shield" paints an ambiguous world where the line between good and evil is blurred.

Also on AXN: On Oct. 26 at 8 p.m., daredevil magician **David Blaine's** latest special, "Vertigo," makes its Asian premiere.

DID YOU KNOW...

In last Friday night's ABS-CBN 50th anniversary extravaganza at the PICC, **Maricel Soriano** at the last minute junked the gown made for her by **Dennis Lustico** and wore instead an old black **Ino Sotto** creation. The actress formerly known as Taray reportedly was not happy with the fit of the off-shoulder gown by Lustico. **Korina Sanchez** herself wore not a locally designed gown but an Escada.

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CINEMA 2	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER 11:05, 1:15, 3:25, 5:35, 7:45, 10:00 R13	

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MUSIC MUSEUM

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OCT 24	SARAH GERONIMO - POPSTAR "A DREAMS COME TRUE	9:00PM

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Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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Ali 2	BUGBOG SARADO
Ali 3	UNDERWORLD
Ali 4	RUNDOWN
Ali 5	BELPHEGOR
Ali 6	THE SUSPECT
Ali 7	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

ARANETA COLISEUM

OCT 25	DZRJ'S 40TH GRAND REUNION
OCT 26	PBA: STA. LUCIA VS. PUREFOODS
OCT 27	UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
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ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BUGBOG SARADO
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	UTANG NG AMA
B	RUNDOWN
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BUGBOG SARADO
CINEMA-2	FREAKY FRIDAY
CINEMA-3	MATCHSTICK MEN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SUSPECT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
CINEMA-6	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
CINEMA-7	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-8	KIKAY (R)
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	BELPHEGOR
CINEMA-12	UNDERWORLD
CINEMA-14	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
CINEMA-15	UTANG NA AMA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
[illegible]	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-1	UTANG NG AMA
CINEMA-2	BUGBOG SARADO
CINEMA-4	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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Katya Santos
& Jinggoy Estrada
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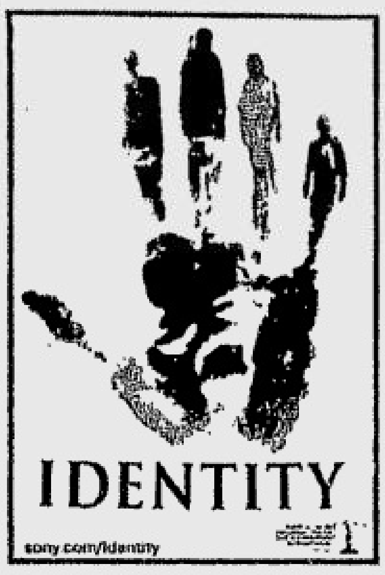


Special Halloween Presentation!

A SMART, SCARY THRILLER

What if every choice we make was already decided for us? What if there really were no coincidences in life and our destinies were already predetermined?

From the producer of the SCREAM movies, comes IDENTITY, a smart, mind- bending thriller with a disturbing twist.

Ten strangers with secrets are brought together in a motel on a rainstorm. A limo driver (John Cusack), an '80s TV star (Rebecca DeMornay), a cop (Ray Liotta) who is transporting a killer (Jake Busey), a call girl (Amanda Peet), a pair of newlyweds and a family in crisis, all take shelter at a desolate motel run by a nervous night manager.

Relief in finding shelter is quickly replaced with spine-chilling fear as the 10 travelers die, one by one. They soon realize that, if they are to survive, they'll have to uncover the secret that has brought them all together.

SCREAM! The TERROR begins OCT29

Willie loses 'Willingly Yours'

REVILLAME won as best public service host for "Willingly Yours" in last week's Star Awards. FILE PHOTO

By Marinel R. Cruz

TELEVISION host Willie Revillame is losing his public service program, "Willingly Yours," whose final episode will be shown tomorrow.

ABS-CBN bosses said the show has been "overextended" and the network "wants something new."

"Willingly Yours" will give way to "Star in a Million, The Grand Finals Showdown," a one-hour singing contest to rival GMA 7's "Search for a Star."

As early as last May, rumor said "Willingly Yours" would be canceled because of poor ratings. But Willie had said the program was even scheduled to renew its contract last August.

"Willingly Yours" was originally meant to air for only one season or 13 episodes, but it has already been "overextended for the longest time," said Maloli Manalastas, ABS-CBN vice president for government, corporate affairs and public relations.

"It's time for the show to go," added Manalastas. "It has been extended for many seasons already and lasted more than a year."

Manalastas said the network wants more current affairs shows.

"There were shows that were still rating well when ABS-CBN decided to cancel them, like 'Palibhasa Lalake' and 'Abangan ang Susunod na Kabanata' in the early '90s," she said. "We merely want something new for viewers."

"Willingly Yours" aired for one year and two months. It was the network's answer to GMA 7's popular "Wish Ko Lang," hosted by Bernadette Sembrano.

Willie said the show is being axed because network management wants him to "concentrate on the production side."

Willie, along with Randy Santiago and John Estrada, is a host of the noontime variety show "Masayang Tanghali Bayan."

"I do not feel any bitterness toward my bosses," Willie told INQUIRER Entertainment last Tuesday. "I'm just sad for the staff of 'Willingly Yours.'"

At the ABS-CBN Anniversary Extravaganza at the PICC in Pasay City last Friday, Willie hinted of his show's impending cancellation. "Mawawalan na po ako ng show," he said as he was leaving the stage after a production number with Randy and John.

"Star in a Million" will start airing on Nov. 8 at 4:30 p.m. "Star in a Million" used to be a segment of the Sunday noontime show "ASAP Mania." It will feature a reality-TV component that will be anchored by Ryan Agoncillo.

Manalastas said the network is "still studying" what program to replace "Willingly Yours" with in its 4 p.m. time slot.

Two other ABS-CBN shows, "Buttercup" and "Showbiz Sabado," are also airing their last episodes in the first week of November.

Webb waits

YESTERDAY

STILL ANGRY, Webb turns to the gym and running his kids' businesses to try to forget ROMY HOMILLADA

By Marinel R. Cruz

"I STILL can't believe that it happened to my son," says Freddie Webb, former senator, basketball legend and sitcom star.

Three years ago, millions of people in homes and workplaces were mesmerized as they stayed glued to their television sets and radios for five hours as two clerks of court took turns in reading Judge Amelita Tolentino's 180-page decision on the case of the Vizconde massacre. The case had dragged for more than eight years, and had all the elements of a courtroom drama: murder, rape, prominent families, and high-priced lawyers. In the middle of it all, Webb shook his head in disbelief as the judge sentenced his son, Hubert, and five other men to life imprisonment for the killing of Lauro Vizconde's wife, and two daughters and the rape of the eldest daughter on June 30, 1991 in Parañaque.

"He's 34 now," Webb, his deep-set eyes filling with tears, says of his son. "He has spent almost eight years in prison."

Webb, his wife, Elizabeth, and their children, Marybeth, Michael, Fritz, Pinky and Jason, and seven grandchildren visit Hubert at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa every Sunday.

"We bring lunch for the family and also Hubert's supper," says the hurting father. "We also try to send the driver everyday to bring him food."

During those Sunday visits, Webb and his wife always watch themselves when talking to Hubert about life outside the prison walls, making sure they don't make him long for it. "We don't make life outside enticing to him," he says. "We talk to him about his brothers and sisters. We talk about basketball. Hubert's interest in the sport matches mine and Jason's combined."

Webb was one of the most popular players in the Manila Industrial Commercial Athletic Association (MICAA) games in the '70s. He was part of the famous Yco Painters, the team he coached and led to championship victory in 1979.

Son Jason was De La Salle University's main pointguard in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) games in the early '90s. In 1997, he was drafted by the Sta. Lucia Realty Team into the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA).

"Hubert is in very good shape, now that he has all the time to play basketball," he says, going back to his imprisoned son. "But he has lost most of his teeth. There are no dentists in jail."

Running businesses

He says Hubert's experience has been a great, if painful, lesson on the value of being a family.

"To be honest, I'm still angry about what happened to my son," he says. "I can't even take the Holy Communion. Sometimes, I'm ashamed of my anger."

To divert his attention from the pain, Webb says he spends most of his time managing the businesses that he put up with his children. Son Fritz has The Basement Salon at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, where the INQUIRER Entertainment interview takes place. Fritz also owns the NYPD Pizza restaurant at The Podium in Pasig City.

Jason is the owner of Yako, a Japanese restaurant, also at The Podium.

"I also work out at the gym for two hours everyday," says their father. "I forget about my anger and I'm more relaxed after that."

Making laws

Webb has been out of government for almost seven years now. In 1971, he was elected councilor of Pasay City, a post he held until 1978. He became Parañaque City representative to Congress in 1987, and was elected senator in 1992.

From 1992 to 1995, he was chair of the Senate committees on health and demography and on games and amusement. He also headed the Senate ad hoc committee on AIDS and the congressional committee on health.

As health committee chair, he helped in the enactment of measures such as the National Health Insurance Act, the Hepatitis-B Immunization Act, the National Diabetes Act, the Salt Iodization Act, a special law on counterfeit drugs, and the act granting benefits to barangay health workers.

"Nobody wanted to be chair of the committee on health because everyone wanted the bigger committees," Webb recalls. "God gave me a good staff," headed by Dr. Mario Ortega, "who has got to be the most intelligent and well-read person I've ever met on this planet."

In 1996, Webb was named chair of the committee on energy by then Senate president Ernesto Maceda, whom Webb described as a "a man of his word."

Making people laugh

"Did you know that I competed with President Gloria (Macapagal-Arroyo) for the twelfth senatorial slot (in 1992)?" Webb says. "The votes I got from Nueva Ecija sealed my victory. I don't know why I did so well in Nueva Ecija. Maybe because of 'Chicks to Chicks.'"

Webb had starred in the top-rating sitcom on IBC 13, "Chicks To Chicks," together with Nova Villa and Carmi Martin. The popular cast also included Chito Arceo, Sammy Lagmay, Dina Bale, the late Maria Theresa Carlson, Ruby Anna and Malou de Leon.

Webb says he did not expect the show to last three months. "Incredibly, we lasted almost a decade," he says, and pays tribute to his co-star. "Nova was the key to the show's success. Without her, I don't think it would have lasted that long."

After five years of high ratings, the "Chicks to Chicks" cast asked IBC 13 for a raise, but management "dilly-dallied for two months."

"Channel 2's Freddie Garcia heard of our demand, invited us to dinner and offered to double our talent fees," Webb recalls. "That night, we agreed that we would transfer to ABS-CBN. A few months after we moved, 'Going Bananas' also moved from Channel 13 to 2."

Hurting and hoping

Webb keeps in touch with Nova and Chito. Ruby Anna and Dina Bale are now living in the United States. Maria Teresa died in what police said was suicide almost two years ago.

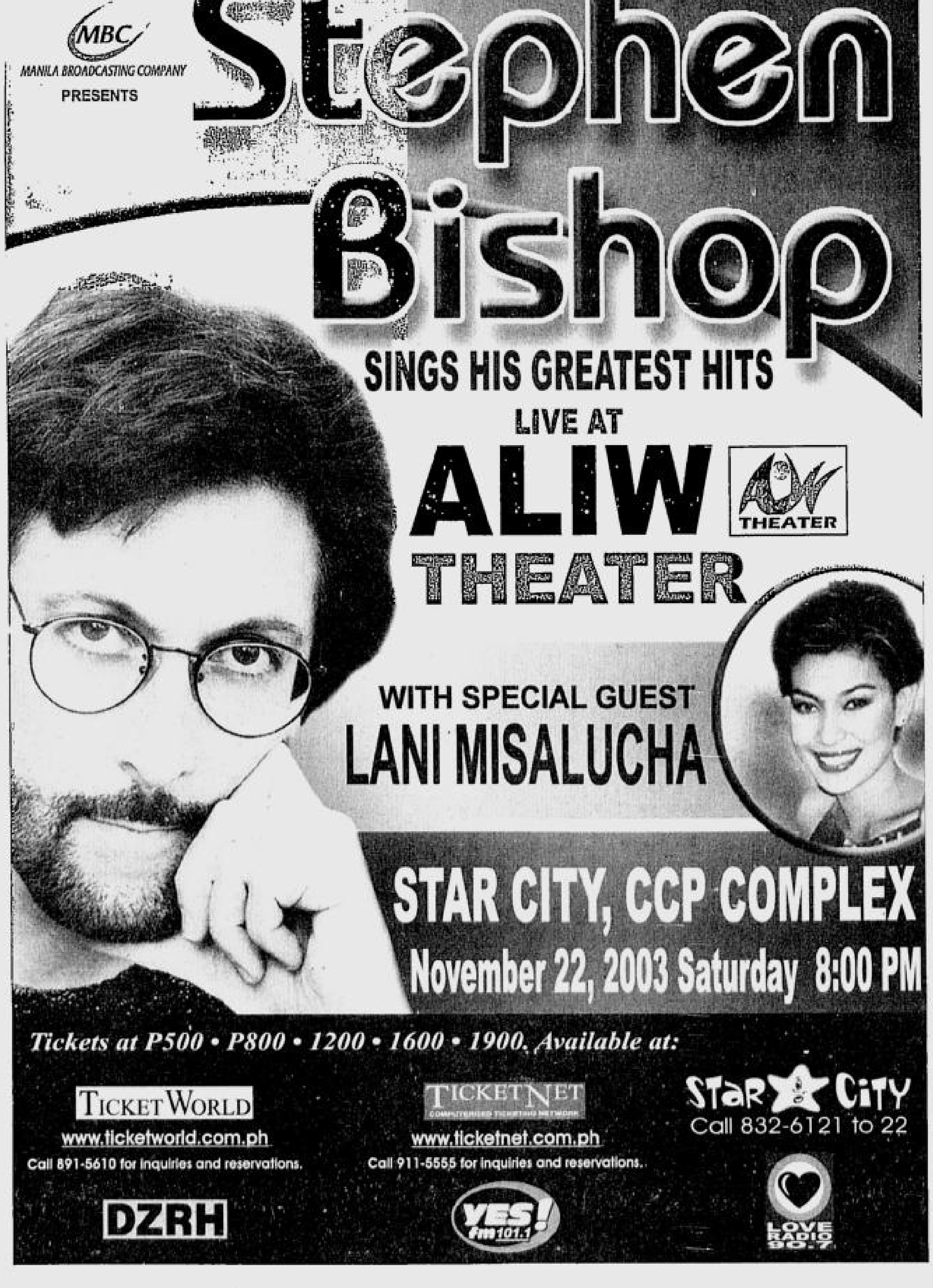
"I miss show biz as much as I miss politics," says Webb. "If I were asked to choose between the two, I would have a hard time."

But the former senator says he has no plans of running in the 2004 elections, because "it is only now that I'm getting to appreciate being away from the public's probing eyes."

Even when he misses politics, he admits with obvious pain, "You really get hurt in politics. Some people will not be there when you need them most. There are very few friends in politics. When the going gets tough, they drop you."

The conversation keeps on going back to his son in prison. His eyes growing dark and misty again, Webb says, "I know he'll be out (of prison)."

"CHICKS TO CHICKS" with Nova Villa and guest Carmina Villaroel



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4 US firms to vie for ₱14B in housing loans

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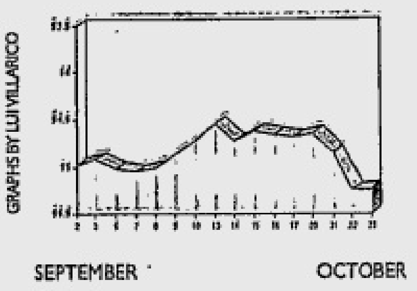

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As of 5 p.m., Oct. 23, 2003

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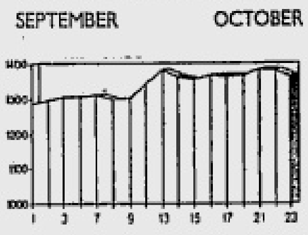
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 23, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks down for 2nd day on Dow fall

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

SHARES closed lower yesterday as the market extended a technical correction on a sharp decline in the Dow Jones and continued weakness in the peso due to a mix of political and economic worries.

Traders said most stocks had been hovering at year-highs and were ripe for a pull back.

The Philippine stock index lost 18.30 points, or 1.32 percent to end at 1,364.44 points, with blue chip conglomerate Ayala Corp leading the decline.

The index is still up 33.98 percent so far this year.

"The market here was pulled up by major markets abroad and since those markets are correcting, we're bound to follow," said Jose Vistan, analyst at AB Capital Securities Inc.

The Dow Jones sank 1.53 percent on Wednesday, following disappointing corporate earnings results.

The peso hit a fresh one-month low on news that a popular local movie star would run for president next year, following a similar path taken by deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The peso was also weighed down by reported comments from electronics industry officials earlier this week that the industry—a key export driver—was under severe pressure due to a lack of government support.

Turnover slightly narrowed to P1.03 billion from P1.04 billion on Wednesday. Losers were in a four-to-one majority.

The stock gained in recent sessions on investor hopes that its purchase of an additional stake in mobile phone subsidiary Globe Telecom would push up its earnings. *Reuters*

By Elena R. Torrijos

AT LEAST four US companies have expressed interest in bidding for some P14 billion in highly delinquent housing loans managed by state-owned National Home Mortgage Finance Corp.

The housing loans will be auctioned off on Jan. 29, 2004.

In a statement, NHMFC said that US-based investment firms Merrill Lynch, Lehmann Brothers, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley had indicated interest in submitting bids for the block of the housing mortgages.

Dale Strickland of international auditing giant Ernst & Young, which together with local accounting group Punongbayan and Araullo serve as financial adviser to NHMFC for the loan disposition, said that five to six investors had verbally expressed their plan to bid for the portfolio.

The planned sale covers approximately 57,000 family home loans funded by the Social Security System and Home Development Mutual Fund. The loans consist of those that were less than 5 percent paid by the borrowers since the loan take-out.

"We think this particular transaction is the first step to attract capital into the Philippines," Strickland said.

Interested investors must pay a transaction registration fee of $30,000 to get pre-qualification documents, which should be submitted on or before Nov.14. NHMFC will announce on Nov. 20 the groups that will be prequalified for the bidding. The prequalified groups are given up to Jan. 27 next year to conduct a due diligence on the loans.

The bidding and the announcement of the winner will be held on Jan. 29.

Strickland said the NHMFC was in the process of securing a commitment from the International Finance Corp., the private investment arm of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to provide a loan equivalent to 50 percent of the total financing required by the winning investor.

The loans will be acquired by the winning investor through a special purpose vehicle or asset management company which should be 75 percent owned by the investor and 25 percent by NHMFC.

NHMFC had to adopt a rehabilitation plan in 1996 when it began falling behind in paying its funders—the SSS, HDMF and the Government Service Insurance System.

Under the rehabilitation plan drawn up with the help of financial advisers, NHMFC has divided its Unified Home Lending Program loan portfolio worth roughly P40 billion into three categories—the highly delinquent, moderately delinquent, and current accounts.

The highly delinquent loans will be the first to be sold. The moderately delinquent loans will be restructured and the current loans will be securitized.

BSP keeps key rates unchanged

By Clarissa S. Batino

DESPITE the renewed volatility of the peso, the policy-making Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has maintained its overnight policy rates at 6.75 percent for borrowing and 9 percent for lending in yesterday's meeting.

Monetary authorities saw no need to tighten interest rates to buoy the peso as BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the weakness of the local currency was only temporary.

Traders, however, said that the volatility in the foreign exchange rate could persist given renewed political uncertainties, including the impeachment of Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide.

The BSP chief warned that Davide's impeachment could adversely affect the peso. In another development, the high court dismissed the other day criminal charges against BSP officials, including Buenaventura, in relation to the closure of Urban Bank Inc.

BSP/B4

FILIPINOS wait outside a Manila agency recruiting workers for the Middle East. The country's economic managers expressed optimism that the peso and the economy will turn around by the fourth quarter when the country's overseas workforce numbering to millions traditionally remit huge amounts into the country.

AFP

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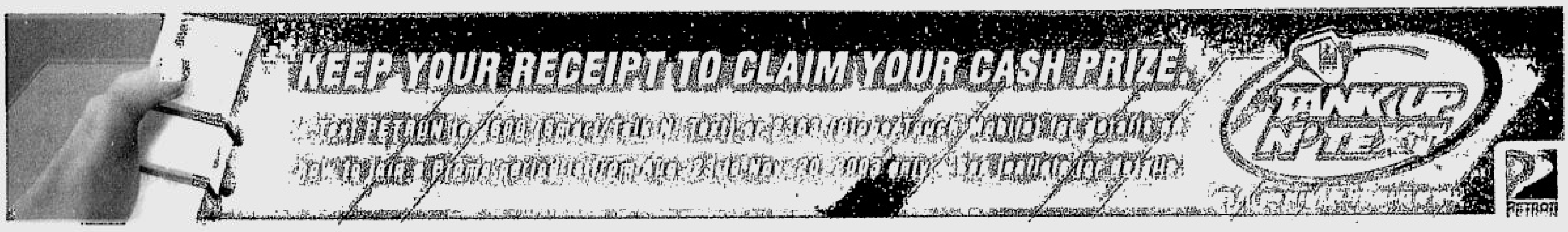

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Siy-bling rivalry

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE BREWING rivalry among the Siy siblings who own Jag/Lee, Seattle's Best Coffee, Popeye's, Kenny Rogers, Marie France slimming salons and Svenson Hair Centre came to a boil this week.

According to the grapevine, eldest child-heiress designate Bernadine Siy on Tuesday was shut out of the family-owned office building in Salcedo Village on orders of her younger siblings, most of them males.

The legal alibi used to padlock Bernadine's companies, the Roasters Group of food companies, in the Siy-owned Singapore Airlines building is that the Roasters Group had allegedly been long past due in its rent payments.

But the pro-Bernadine grapevine claims that the building, controlled by younger brother George, still owes her side dividends from the 12 years that the George group has been managing the building.

It is not clear why George would not offset the rental claims against property dividends, considering that both he and Bernadine and the rest of Siy family have common ownership in both Roasters and Toucan Realty, which owns the building as well as other Siy real estate concerns.

In this family feud, Bernadine is supported by her brother Wilfred, who runs the Jag and Lee Jeans operations, and brother Frederick, the general manager of Seattle's Best, as well as by their mother and the surviving aunts.

George, the second child of the late textile tycoon Ramon Siy after Bernardine, has younger sisters Angeline and Jacqueline on his side and counts on the Chinese tradition of naming the eldest son as the heir to the family business.

Unfortunately, according to the grapevine, George was outvoted in the September 2002 family council, where even his elderly mother and aunts decided to hand over the management of the flagship Jag and Lee factories to Bernadine's group, apparently in recognition of their entrepreneurial talents.

Still, George was given the ceremonial title of chair, by virtue of which he now sits as president of the Confederation of Garment Exporters of the Philippines.

Because of the padlocking, Bernadine has transferred the Roasters Group offices to SLC building at the corner of Ayala and Herrera.

Continental link

CONTINENTAL Micronesia is starting twice-a-week direct flights between Saipan and Manila on Dec. 9, in a bid to catch the holiday surge.

The Tuesday and Thursday flights have been scheduled until Jan. 16, but may have to be extended, according to the grapevine, if there is enough traffic.

No wonder Continental CEO Mark Erwin is in town, working to clear whatever regulatory approvals needed to be hurdled.

Saipan has about 15,000 Filipinos. With the direct flights, Filipino travelers can skip the usual Guam stopover and thus the need to obtain US visas even if they are merely transiting through the US-administered island.

Heard through the grapevine

A LEADING importer-dealer of Mercedes Benz was forced to return the down payments handed by several customers after belatedly realizing that the excise tax computations given by the dealer's female broker had been grossly underestimated.

The wrong computations were what prompted the Benz dealer to advertise and quote a much lower price for the German luxury cars.

The dealer can quote prices lower than Commercial Motors, the traditional local assembler-dealer, since the dealer's import papers make it appear that it is a dummy buyer that is directly ordering from Germany, thus theoretically shaving out dealer's margin/value-added tax.

The dealer, theoretically, becomes just the shipper/broker in this transaction. Instead of a sales invoice, the dealer issues the real car buyer a deed of sale executed by the first "buyer."

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Equitable PCI Bank sells stake in insurance arm to Philamlife

By Elena R. Torrijos

EQUITABLE PCI Bank, the country's third largest bank, has sold 95 percent of its stake in Equitable PCI Life to leading insurance firm Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co. for P66.822 million.

The sale would pave the way for the entry of Equitable PCI Bank into the profitable business of selling insurance products through its branch network, called bancassurance.

Equitable PCI Bank retained a small stake to allow the bank to market the insurance products.

"We are confident this partnership will prove most advantageous to our customers who will be offered a broad array of insurance product offerings, which should reinforce the bank's position as a quality service provider," said Antonio L. Go, Equitable PCI Bank chair in a statement.

Renamed Philam Equitable Life Assurance Company Inc. or Pelac, the new company will offer a portfolio of insurance products and services to Equitable PCI Bank's nearly two million customers under new rules of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Pelac will be led by Carl Gustini as CEO and president, a veteran of 20 years at AIG.

Beginning December, Pelac will deploy Financial Sales Executives in selected Equitable PCI Bank branches to work with branch personnel and offer the bank clients a complete financial planning service.

"The deployment will initially cover 30 branches in Metro Manila, but will eventually extend to the whole country," said Dennis B. Velasquez, Equitable PCI Bank executive vice president and retail banking head.

Philamlife, a unit of the US-based American International Group, will bring in fresh capital and assurance expertise to the alliance, the bank said.

Equitable PCI Bank president and chief executive Rene Buenaventura was optimistic about the venture's prospects.

"It is our vision to become the dominant player in the field, providing an unparalleled level of bancassurance service. We have always sought to respond to customers' needs with products and service offerings that represent the leading edge of innovation in the financial services industry," he said.

Equitable PCI Bank has over 400 branches and more than 400 FASTeller ATMs nationwide, with access to 4,000 BancNet, MegaLink and ExpressNet ATMs.

Forum completes well testing in Cebu

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FORUM Exploration Inc. (FEI) has completed its testing of the Forum 2-X well in Cebu, which flowed up to 217,000 standard cubic feet of gas per day, the Department of Energy said yesterday.

Energy Undersecretary Eduardo Mañalac said in a statement that further tests and drilling were needed to confirm the viability of putting the gas field into commercial production.

The well test, however, had been temporarily suspended due to the accumulation of sediments inside the well, which restricted the free flow of gas from the underground reservoir.

Mañalac said FEI, a subsidiary of Canada-based Forum Energy Corp. (FEC) was preparing to conduct conventional flow tests.

In a report issued last week, Ranilo Abando, director of the DOE's energy resource development bureau, said the previous test was conducted at four sections of the Forum 2-X well at depths between 1,206 feet and 1,610 feet.

"Data gathered during the logging operations indicate some sections with possible hydrocarbon accumulation," Abando said.

Experts explained that during logging operations, petroleum hunters insert electronic tools in the well shaft to determine the presence of natural gas, crude oil and water.

Abando said that FEI was waiting for the arrival of materials needed for its planned testing at Forum 2-X.

Forum Energy Corp. (FEC), said last month that it hoped to begin oil production from Forum 2-X within the year.

FEI planned to drill Forum 2-X to a depth of 1,750 feet to reach its main objective—the Malubog formation, which was formed during the Late Miocene period or between 5 million and 24 million years ago.

DOE records showed that another area in the drilling area called the Maingit reservoir has estimated reserves of between 0.6 million and 3.86 million barrels of oil.

Earlier this year, the company tested two areas at the nearby Forum 1-X where it encountered traces of hydrocarbons.

Data from such tests take at least a few months to process, experts said.

The results of drilling activities on Forum 1-X, which was completed last July, would be further assessed and tested through Forum 2-X.

"Certainly all signs look very encouraging and we have every confidence that Forum 2-X would yield positive results, paving the way forward to aggressively developing the potential reserves in the area," Forum Energy president and chief executive Larry Youell said earlier.

Forum's other contract areas in the Philippines cover parts of Manila Bay and West Central Luzon.

Foreign drilling companies were encouraged to drill for natural gas in the Philippines due to the success of the Malampaya natural gas field off northwest Palawan.

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Cojuangco takes over ABC-5

By Doris C. Dumlao

ASSOCIATED Brocasting Corp. (ABC-5) yesterday announced the appointment of a new management team following the takeover of the company by the consortium led by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Antonio Cojuangco.

In a statement yesterday, ABC-5 said the buyout deal was closed last Wednesday, followed by a private reception for the new owners led by Cojuangco.

Following the takeover from the group of Edward Tan, Cojuangco assumed the position of president and CEO while former Trade and Industry/Finance Secretary Jose Pardo was named the new chair.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that Cojuangco's group bought ABC-5 for P4.8 billion.

Former investment banker Regalado Galura was appointed executive vice president and chief operating officer while Ricardo Bautista was named treasurer.

ABC-5 said Cojuangco's entry was a boon to the television industry, with the network expected to become a major player in Philippine broadcasting.

Industry sources said that under the new management, ABC-5 would realign its programming to focus more on news and public affairs. The marketing theme shall be revamped and the network will have an official re-launching by January 2004.

The local broadcasting industry is currently characterized as a "duopoly" of leading players ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and GMA Network Inc.

ABC-5, whose forerunner was shut down by the Marcos regime, resumed operations under a set of shareholders led by veteran broadcaster Edward Tan in February of 1992.

"Today, 11 years later and under a new set of shareholders, ABC-5 is set to further raise the bar in the broadcast industry," ABC-5 said.

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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week October 21, 2003	Last Week October 14, 2003
Bond Fund - Peso	1.12074	1.12095
Managed Fund - Peso	1.15083	1.14850
Bond Fund - US Dollar	0.99330	1.00330

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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2003	BMW 316i	Orient Blue	Black Fabric	8k	1,390,000.00	Sale Pending
2002	BMW 316i	Oxford Green	Black Fabric	5k	1,380,000.00	Sold
2003	BMW 318i	Steel Gray	Black Fabric	10k	1,690,000.00	Sold
2003	BMW 318i	Orient Blue	Gray Fabric	10k	1,690,000.00	
2003	BMW 318i Exec	Oxford Green	Black Leather	13k	1,950,000.00	
2003	BMW 325i Exec	Titanium Silver	Gray Leather	9k	2,350,000.00	
2003	BMW 325i Exec	Black Sapphire	Beige Leather	9k	2,350,000.00	
2003	BMW 325i M-Sport	Imola Red	Black Leather	4k	2,450,000.00	Sold
2003	BMW 525i Exec	Chiaretto Red	Beige Leather	7k	2,850,000.00	
2003	BMW X5 3.0d Exec	Titanium Silver	Gray Leather	1k	4,380,000.00	Sale Pending

Other Pre-Owned BMWs

Year	Model	Color	Interior Color	Mileage	Price	Status
1996	BMW 316i	Cosmos Black	Black Fabric	47k	620,000.00	
1997	BMW 316i	Cosmos Black	Black Fabric	44k	650,000.00	
1998	BMW 316i	Alpine White	Black Fabric	70k	690,000.00	Sold
1997	BMW 320i	Arktis Silver	Black Leather	50k	760,000.00	Sold
1996	BMW 523i	Arktis Silver	Black Leather	80k	1,350,000.00	Sale Pending

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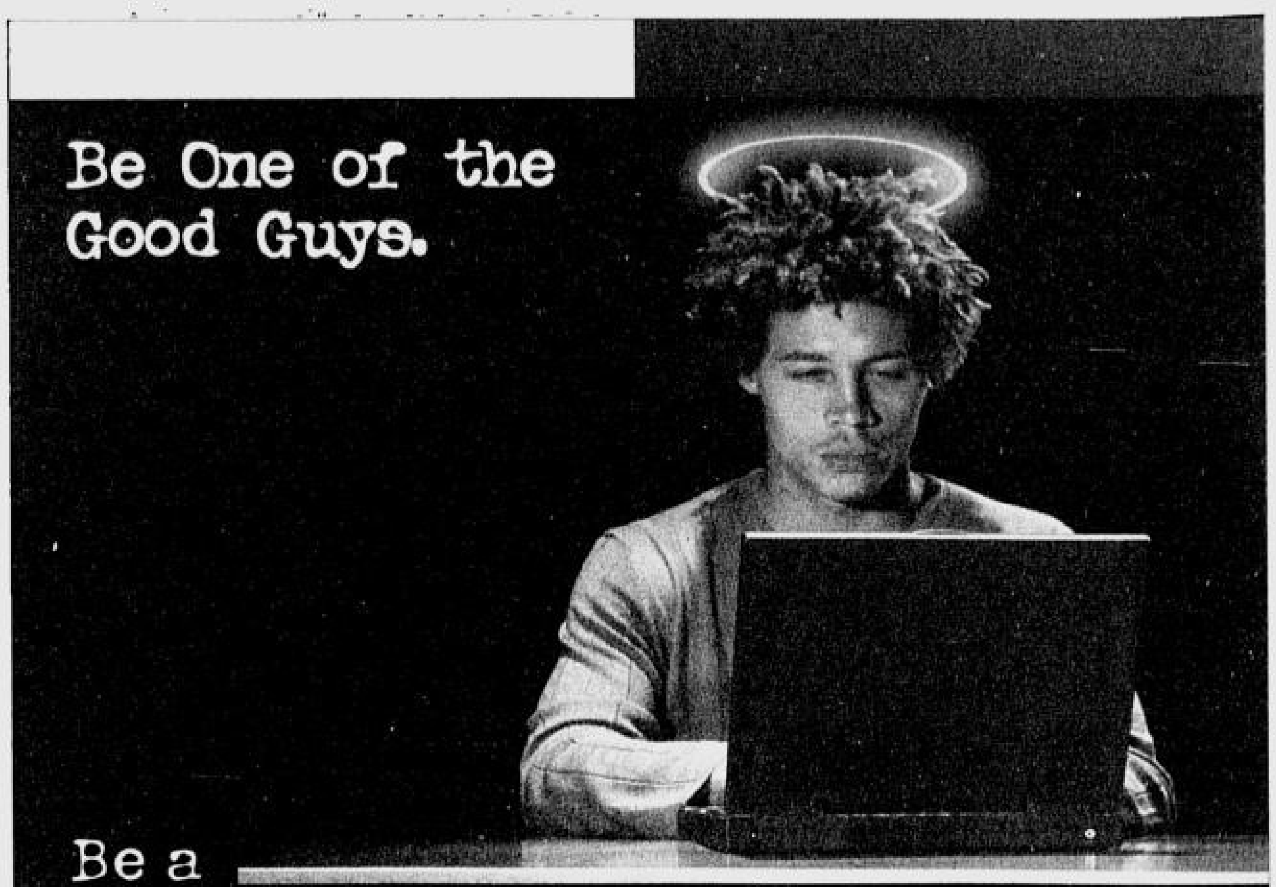

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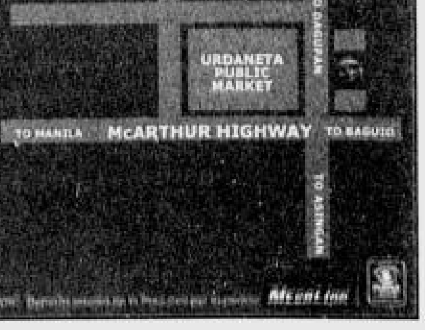

Bacnotan Steel placed under rehabilitation receivership

CONCEPCION

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MAKATI Regional Trial Court has placed Phinma-controlled Bacnotan Steel Industries Inc., the country's largest manufacturer of steel billets and reinforcing bars, under rehabilitation receivership.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Bacnotan said the RTC had appointed Danilo Concepcion as receiver of the cash-strapped steel firm. This was conveyed to the company in a letter dated Oct. 22.

BSII's parent firm Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc. earlier joined other creditors in a court petition for its corporate rehabilitation. They asked the court to issue an order suspending all claims against the company, which has total debts of P2 billion.

This petition seeks to prevent creditors from scrambling for the cash-strapped company's assets and to pave the way for its rehabilitation.

Bacnotan Steel owes its parent firm, BCII, P67 million.

BSII is a Japanese-Filipino joint venture with Japan's Kawasaki Steel and Mitsui as equity investors along with the Japan International Development Organization and Kawasho Corp. The Filipino partners are the Phinma Group, principally through BCII, the Bank of the Philippine Islands and Philippine National Bank.

The company has the following annual production capacity in its plant located in Calamba, Laguna: galvanizing lines—144,000 metric tons and color coating lines—33,000 metric tons.

Satellite provider, construction firm to list by year-end

AFTER a long drought, two companies—satellite provider Transpacific Broadcast Group International Inc. and construction firm Supercity Realty Development Corp.—will debut on the Philippine Stock Exchange in December.

The PSE board, in its meeting on Wednesday, approved the listing of TBGI on Dec. 12 and of Supercity on Dec. 19, making them the third and fourth issuers to brave the market this year after Cashrounds.com and Makati Finance Corp.

Both will list on the second board of the PSE, which is devoted to companies with market capitalization of at least P250 million and which do not have track record but with potential for growth.

TBGI, a unit of businessman Arsenio Ng's publicly listed ATN Holdings Inc., will offer 76.64 million shares or 37 percent of its common stock at P1.18 to P1.48 per share, to raise P90.4 million to P113.4 million.

Its offering period will be on Nov. 17 to 28, with RCBC Capital Corp. as the lead underwriter.

Supercity plans to issue 50 million new common shares or 45.45 percent of its post-IPO capital at P1.10 per share.

The offering—which will be held from Nov. 25 to Dec. 3—shall be underwritten on a firm basis by Abacus Capital & Investment Corp.

Doris C. Dumlao

Gov't defers privatization of power transmission assets

THE GOVERNMENT, struggling to contain its budget shortfall, yesterday said that talks on the privatization of its state-run power transmission firm had been delayed to the first quarter of next year.

Singapore Power Corp., the only firm that expressed interest in leasing the facilities of the National Transmission Corp., is not ready to begin negotiations while the Philippine government has yet to approve the guidelines for a negotiated agreement, a senior official said.

"We want to make sure the guidelines are reasonable," Edgardo del Fonso, president of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), said.

Earlier reports quoted Del Fonso as saying that Singapore Power was not ready to negotiate because it was undergoing restructuring.

"By the first quarter of 2004, the negotiations will start," he said.

But Del Fonso said PSALM would proceed with the sale of power plants belonging to National Power Corp. on Dec. 19.

He said the Philippines hoped to raise between $4 billion and $5 billion from the privatization of Transco and the state-owned power plants.

The cost of running and financing National Power runs up to 38 billion pesos a year, adding to the government's budget deficit burden.

PSALM earlier said it was hoping to privatize Transco by the end of the year after securing in September a legal opinion from the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel that it could enter into a negotiated deal.

Two attempts to draw bids for Transco failed in July and August due to uncertainties in the regulatory environment and security concerns after a failed July mutiny by soldiers.

After the bidding, the government said it wanted to sell the leasing rights to the sole interested party, state-owned Singapore Power.

PSALM said it would proceed with the sale of two out of the 32 state-run power plants in the country.

Del Fonso told reporters bidders would be allowed to conduct due diligence before the Dec. 19 bidding on the 210-megawatt oil-fired Navotas 1 plant in Manila and the 3.5-megawatt Talomo hydropower plant in Davao City in the southern Philippines.

PSALM vice president Froilan Tampinco told reporters earlier this week that 32 firms have expressed interest in participating in the auction of the power plants.

The firms included US-based Mirant Corp. and Japan's Chubu Electric Power Co., Mitsubishi Corp and Marubeni Corp. *Reuters*

PLDT projecting ₱10B in profit this year

By Abigail L. Ho

LAHUG, Cebu City—Despite new provisions to be booked in the third quarter, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan remained confident that the company would still be able to post P9 billion to P10 billion in profits this year.

In an interview yesterday, he said the company would be sticking to its earlier net income target even with more provisions to be booked.

He explained that whatever provisions the company would have to make during the second semester of the year would not be of the same magnitude as what PLDT booked during the first half, so these should not drag the company's bottom line.

PLDT's first-half net income was dragged down to only P1.8 billion from P2.7 billion in the same period last year by provisions worth more than P4.8 billion.

These provisions included more than P1.2 billion for its manpower reduction program (MRP) and more than P3.5 billion for the write-down of its investments and assets in Unilink/Philippine Home Cable Holdings Inc. and satellite telecommunications service providers ACeS Phil. and ACeS International Ltd. as well as receivables from Philcom Corp.

Pangilinan declined to reveal exactly how much the company would be booking as provisions for the third quarter as PLDT was currently in the quiet period, with barely two weeks before the disclosure of its third-quarter results.

ING Financial Markets Research analyst Doris Pardo said in her Oct. 8 report that the third-quarter provisions would likely be related to the company's pension fund.

The future of the local swine industry

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

LARRY Atendido (not his real name) remembers the time when he used to sleep every weekday in a government office. He did not have enough money from his meager salary to pay for his P60 transportation fare to see his wife and children in Cavite, where rent is much cheaper than Manila.

One late night, a government official saw him and found out about his condition. He lent Larry P6,000 so that his family could buy four piglets to grow and fatten for sale. After five months, he could sell each piglet bought at P1,500 for P4,400. With the profit from this, Larry could now see his family on weekdays. This made his family very happy. But now Larry is worried that this may not continue.

Senate Bill 1004

Next Tuesday, Oct. 28, is a crucial day for Larry and his family. It is also important for the 3.8 million people who are directly dependent on the swine industry, as well as the 3.5 million workers and their families who are indirectly dependent on it such as corn farmers, feed millers, and haulers and distributors. On that day, there will be a hearing on Senate Bill No. 1004: An Act Allowing the Importation of Live Animals, Meat and Meat Products Only from Zones Declared by the Office International des Epizootic (OIE) as FMD (Foot and Mouth Disease) Free Zones Where Vaccination is Not Practiced.

This bill was originally authored in the House of Representatives by Rep. Cynthia Villar. It was passed unanimously with a vote of 135-0. It is now undergoing deliberations in the Senate, where its main author is Sen. Manuel Villar. However, Larry and the swine producers, especially the small backyard raisers who constitute 76 percent of the industry, are concerned that this bill might be stalled in the Senate. If it is not passed this December, then everything has to start all over again with a new set of legislators from the 2004 elections. The great risk of importing FMD into our shores will continue, and the future of the swine industry will be in peril.

Senate deliberations

So far, the pace of the Senate deliberations is making the swine producers nervous. Last Aug. 31, newspapers reported the disappointment of the swine producers in not being able to air their side during the previous week's hearing because of lack of time. They subsequently requested an additional hearing. Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., who chaired the hearing, immediately granted this for Oct. 20. But since a certain government official was not present, the hearing was postponed. Fearing that a series of delays would jeopardize the December deadline, the swine producers staged a unique rally the following day. Aside from the usual gathering of 300 swine producers, they gifted the concerned Senate staff with 14 *lechons*. They said that with an FMD outbreak because of the imports which the bill was seeking to prevent, would not be so accessible anymore.

The Oct. 28 ghearing

When consumers eat FMD-contaminated pork, they do not get sick. But the presence of FMD does great damage to the swine industry, since FMD is highly contagious for livestock. This results in huge losses for our already impoverished farmers, a decrease in food supply, and higher prices for our consumers.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) should be commended for doing a good job in controlling FMD in our country, though we are not totally FMD-free yet. It would be ironic if DA takes a position that will allow FMD importation to contaminate our swine, for this will negate all the good work they have done so far.

Control measures

If there are control measures that can prevent the FMD spread from imports, they should be proven to be effective and realistic, or the consequences would be disastrous.

It is argued that meat processing plants can control FMD, while wet markets cannot. However, many swine producers are currently dissatisfied with what they allege to be the lack of transparency from DA in this area. They say that the comparison between the *carabeef* imported from India (which the OIE has identified as having FMD) and the amount of this *carabeef* actually processed under the processing plants' controlled conditions was never given. The gap would be the *carabeef* that is leaked into the wet markets, where the FMD is not controlled and therefore very dangerous.

These swine producers want the same transparency from the DA that they see from the Department of Trade and Industry. The DTI provides the private sector a comparison between the amount of textiles allegedly brought in for exports and the actual amount of garments produced from these textiles. The balance is the leakage into the domestic market, just as the balance in the carabeef case is the leakage into the wet markets. With this information, appropriate action can be taken.

Many swine producers want a systemic solution to problems like these. They believe this Senate bill is the answer.

Conclusion

Larry Atendido and the others in the swine industry, which produces P86.7 billion worth of products annually, eagerly await the outcome of the Oct. 28 Senate hearing on this issue. What they really do not want to hear is that time has run out because elections are around the corner. With Senator Magsaysay as the chair of this hearing, this will be highly unlikely. As Nicanor Briones, Lincoma Multipurpose Cooperative president and Alyansa Agrikultura member said, "Knowing Senator Magsaysay's sense of justice and bias for the country's agricultural base, we do not believe he will allow this bill to just gather dust and eventually be forgotten." Or else it will be *de javu* again, to the detriment of Larry Atendido and the 3.8 million like him who are directly affected by this hearing.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry, and former chair and Cabinet Secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 23, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	22,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	45	44.5	45	253,500
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	50
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	36	34.5	35	98,200
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.74	410,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	27	27.5	43,900
Philippine National Bank	28	28	28	28	42,900
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	19	19	19	19	3,799,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	28.5	28.5	14,400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1580	1590	1575	1575	500
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	224,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1340	1345	1340	1345	2,940
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	29	29	29	29	11,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.71	1,460,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	755	755	740	740	60,300
ISM Communications Corp.	0.045	0.046	0.044	0.046	7,500,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.82	0.83	14,360,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	740	755	730	730	[illegible]
Ivantage Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	300,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	54,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.25	13.75	14	275,500
Manila Electric Co. B	21.5	21.5	20.75	20.75	1,091,600
Petron Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.02	2.04	646,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.1	3.15	3.1	3.1	1,331,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	340,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.1	154,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	28	28	45,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.5	17.5	16.75	16.75	452,500
RFM Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56.5	56	56.5	49,200
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	62.5	62	62.5	138,000
Universal Robina Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	4,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	150,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.85	4.95	4.85	4.9	124,059,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.4	3.45	3.4	3.4	325,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	210,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	9,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	5,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	3,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.58	9,380,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	400,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18.25	18.25	18	18	109,200
Ionics Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.64	1.64	608,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2	2	2	2	463,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	400,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.06	2,563,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.29	3,650,000
Music Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	470,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	410,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.095	0.1	2,900,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	12,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	6,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1	1	1	1	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	200,000
Pryce Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	870,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.59	1,900,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	130,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	70,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	380,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	485,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	29	29	29	29	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	1,763,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	30,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.235	0.215	0.235	15,970,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.24	1,410,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.14	1.16	7,048,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	300,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	350,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	7	6.8	7	8,728,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.235	4,080,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	7,460,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	76,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0085	0.009	0.0085	0.009	33,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	1,140,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	400,000
Interport Res. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0034	0.0034	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Mtn. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0032	0.0034	9,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	150,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.23	1,300,000

DISCLOSURES

ALFONSO Victorio Reyno II was appointed EVP and deputy CEO of Manila Jockey Club Inc. while lawyer Ferdinand Domingo is the new general counsel. The club shall hold a special stockholders' meeting on Dec. 5 for the confirmation and ratification of acts approved by its board. The record date for the said meeting is Nov. 5.

* * *

EQUITABLE PCI Bank and the Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co. executed a deed of assignment dated Oct. 22 covering the sale, assignment or conveyance by Equitable of 14,250,000 shares of stock held in Equitable PCI Life Insurance Corp. equivalent to 95 percent of EPCI Life's outstanding stock, in favor of Philamlife, for the consideration of P66,822,000.

* * *

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. bought 90,000 shares at P1.32 per share on Oct. 21 as part of its shares buy-back program.

* * *

THE BRIDGE lenders of Maynilad Water Services Inc. advised Benpres Holdings Corp. on Oct. 22 that they were calling on the shareholders' guarantee on the Maynilad bridge loan in the amount of $80,061,105.36.

Compiled by Armin Adina, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

October 23, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.846811754	1.000000	55.066000
Japan	Yen	0.007779	0.009186	0.505800
United Kingdom	Pound	1.43289	1.692100	93.177200
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109255	0.129019	7.104600
Switzerland	Franc	0.644895	0.761557	41.935900
Canada	Dollar	0.649644	0.767165	42.244700
Singapore	Dollar	0.488499	0.576868	31.765800
Australia	Dollar	0.596305	0.704176	38.776200
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.246244	2.652590	146.067500
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.225817	0.266667	14.684300
Brunei	Dollar	0.487094	0.575209	31.674500
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.0001	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021224	0.025063	1.380100
United Arab Emirates	Dirham	0.230576	0.272287	14.993800
Euro	Euro	1	1.180900	65.027400
Argentina	Peso	0.296607	0.350263	19.287600
Brazil	REAL	0.296088	0.349650	19.253800
Denmark	Kroner	0.134489	0.158818	8.745500
India	Rupee	0.01871	0.022095	1.216700
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.222875	0.263193	14.493000
Mexico	New Peso	0.075325	0.088951	4.898200
New Zealand	Dollar	0.513002	0.605804	33.359200
Norway	Kroner	0.121515	0.143497	7.901800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015014	0.017730	0.976300
South Africa	Rand	0.121407	0.143369	7.894800
Korea	Won	0.000718	0.000848	0.046700
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025017	0.029542	1.626800

BSP keeps key rates. . .

From page B1

The peso yesterday closed unchanged at 55.24 to $1 although it fell to a day-low of 55.31. After weeks of trying to gain strength,the peso again succumbed to pressures caused by political uncertainties and peace and order concerns.

Buenaventura said the Monetary Board held the view that the peso weakness was a temporary aberration and that it would not affect the central bank's inflation rate target of 4.5 to 5.5 percent this year and 4 to 5 in 2004.

The BSP has adopted a policy of using its monetary tools to keep prices stable and not necessarily to buoy the peso except when the peso's weakness is already putting pressure on the government's inflation target.

"The Monetary Board believes that the near term outlook for inflation remains subdued. The average inflation rate is expected to go below the 4.5 to 5.5 percent target for 2003," said Buenaventura in a statement.

P A N A W A G A N

ANG *PROVINCIAL AGRARIAN REFORM COORDINATING COMMITTEE (PARCCOM)* NG IBA'T IBANG LALAWIGAN SA PILIPINAS AT MGA *PEOPLES' ORGANIZATION* SA LALAWIGAN NG QUEZON AT CAVITE, AY UMAAPELA KAY KGG. PRESIDENTE GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, SA MGA MAGIGITING NA SENADOR AT KONGRESISTA, AT SA MGA MAHISTRADO NG KATAAS-TAASANG HUKUMAN NA PAKINGGAN ANG AMING TINIG AT IKONSIDERA SA DESISYONG NAUUKOL SA ALOKASYON NG *BUDGET* PARA SA *COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM (CARP).*

Alam namin ang pagnanais ng mga *Human Right Victims* na sila ang makinabang sa pondong makukuha mula sa P38 Bilyong diumano'y *"ill gotten wealth"* na nakumpiska ng pamahalaan sa pamamagitan ng PCGG.

NGUNIT KAMI AY NANINIWALANG MAS MALAKI ANG MAITUTULONG NG PONDONG P38 BILYON HINDI LAMANG SA MGA MAGSASAKA KUNDI HIGIT AY SA EKONOMIYA NG ATING BANSA KUNG ITO AY ILALAAN PARA SA PATULOY NA PAMAMAHAGI NG LUPA TUNGO SA MABILIS NA PAGPAPATUPAD NG *COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM.*

Kami ay saksi at makikinabang din, bilang mga samahang mula sa iba't ibang sektor ng lipunan, sa mga suporta at serbisyong ipinagkaloob ng CARP, gaya ng mga sumusunod:

1. **Ang mga imprastrakturang kalsada at tulay,** na nakakatulong ng malaki upang ang mga produktong bukid ay madala sa pamilihan sa maiksing panahon upang maibenta sa tamang halaga. Gayundin, magiging mas mura ang gastos sa pamasahe;
2. **Ang irigasyon at patubig** na kailangan ng bukid upang patuloy na makapagtanim na hindi umaasa sa patak ng ulan. Kung buong taon makapagtatanim ng mga gulay, prutas at palay ang mga magsasaka, wala na tayong pangamba na mawalan ng *supply* ng pagkain ang bawat pamilihan na mabibili sa tamang halaga;
3. **Ang mga *warehouse facility*** na kailangan upang sa panahong marami ang produkto sa pamilihan ay maiimbak nang maayos ang mga sobrang produkto na may tamang sistema upang makapaghintay ng tamang presyo sa pamilihan; gayundin ang mga *post harvest facilities* tulad ng *solar* at *mechanical dryer, thresher, rice mill, hauler* at iba pang pasilidad na nakakatulong upang mabawasan ang *spoilage* at *wastage* ng mga produkto. Maitatakda ang pagbebenta sa mas mataas na kalidad at halaga ng mga produktong bukid. Ito ay mangangahulugan ng mas mataas na kita para sa magsasaka;
4. **Ang mga *pre-harvest facilities*** tulad ng *hand tractor, power tiller,* at iba pang pasilidad na kailangan upang mabawasan ang oras na inilalaan sa paghahanda ng sakahan bago mataniman. Ito ay mangangahulugan ng dagdag na oras na mailalaan ng mga magsasaka sa iba pang gawain na maaari pa ring pagkakitaan;
5. **Ang mga pagsasanay at pag-aaral** ng mga teknolohiya ukol sa mga makabagong paraan ng pagsasaka na magbibigay ng kaalaman upang makasabay ang mga magsasaka sa maramihang produksyon ng ibang bansa; ang mga kaalaman sa tamang preserbasyon at *processing* ng mga produktong bukid upang makapag-*produce* nang bagong produkto na maibebenta sa pamilihan sa mas mataas na halaga; at ang mga pagsasanay upang patuloy na mapalakas ang pagtitiwala sa sariling kakayahan. Ito'y katumbas ng mamamayang produktibo at mahalagang *asset* ng bansa;
6. **Ang puhunang kailangan** para maipambili ng mga farm inputs upang makaproduce ang ating bansa ng may mataas na kalidad na produktong bukid na maaaring ilaban o isabay sa produkto ng ibang bansa. Ito'y katumbas ng mga bagong pagkakataon upang mapalakas ang pasok ng dolyar sa ating bansa sa pamamagitan ng exports.

Kung may siguradong ani sa ating bansa, meron tayong sapat na supply ng mga produktong bukid sa mga pamilihan, na mabibili sa tamang halaga, anumang panahon para sa mamamayang Pilipino.

Kung ang mga magsasaka ay may siguradong kita, meron silang panustos upang ang kanilang mga anak ay makapag-aral at makatapos sa kolehiyo upang maging asset ng ating bansa.

Kung ang mga magsasaka ay may siguradong kita, makakabayad sila ng land amortization (para sa mga CARP awarded lands) at buwis na kailangan ng ating bansa, upang patuloy na masustinihan ang mga pangkaunlarang gawain .

DI KAMI TUMUTUTOL NA ANG MGA *HUMAN RIGHTS VICTIMS* AY BAHAGINAN, SUBALIT HUWAG NAMAN PONG PAWALANG HALAGA ANG KALAGAYAN NG MGA MAGSASAKA. KUNG SILA MAN AY *HUMAN RIGHTS VICTIMS*, ANG MGA MAGSASAKA MAN AY GAYUNDIN. MATAGAL NA SILANG BIKTIMA NG HINDI PANTAY NA PAGBABAHAGI NG YAMAN AT PAGKAKATAON DITO SA ATING BANSA.

AYON SA ESTADISTIKA, ANG MGA MAGSASAKA NA BUMUBUO SA HALOS 70% NG MAMAMAYANG PILIPINO, AY UMAASA LAMANG NA MATUTUPAD ANG HANGARING MAKATIKIM NG KASAGANAAN AT MAALIS SA GUHIT NG KARUKHAAN SA PAMAMAGITAN NG MABILISANG PAGPAPATUPAD NG *COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM.*

DAHIL DITO, KAMI AY HUMIHILING SA INYO,

KGG. PRESIDENTE GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO,
LAHAT NG SENADOR
AT MGA KONGRESISTA,
SAMPU NG MGA MAHISTRADO
NG KATAAS-TAASANG HUKUMAN

NA TULUYANG IPAGKALOOB ANG P30 BILYONG PISO MULA SA KUNG TAWAGIN AY *"ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH"* NA NARE-*RECOVER* NG PCGG AT PATULOY PANG PONDOHAN ANG *COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM.*

LAHAT KAMING NAKALAGDA DITO AY UMAASA NA INYONG BIBIGYANG HALAGA ANG AMING PAGNANAIS NA MAIANGAT ANG ANTAS NG PAMUMUHAY NG ATING MGA MAGSASAKA NA MAGDUDULOT NG POSITIBONG EPEKTO SA ATING EKONOMIYA.

Mga lumagda:

Higit sa 3,000 mga kasapi (as of press time) ng Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committees (PARCCOM) ng iba't ibang lalawigan; at ng iba't ibang mga Peoples' Organizations, at mga kooperatiba ng **QUEZON** at **CAVITE**

Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Abra
Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Aklan
Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Aurora
Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Batangas
Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Bukidnon
Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Benguet
Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Catanduanes
Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Camarines Sur
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Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Cebu
Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Davao City
Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Guimaras
Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Isabela
Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Laguna
Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Marinduque
Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Masbate
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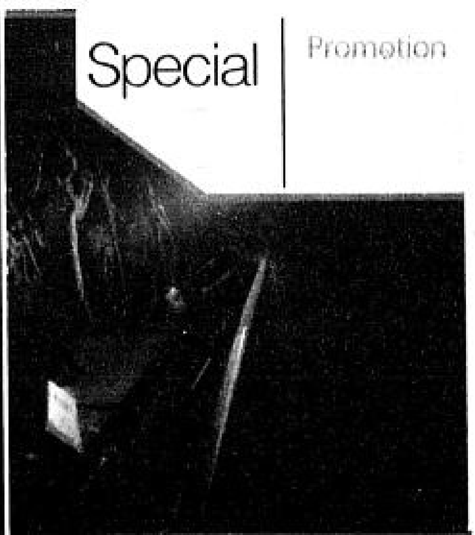
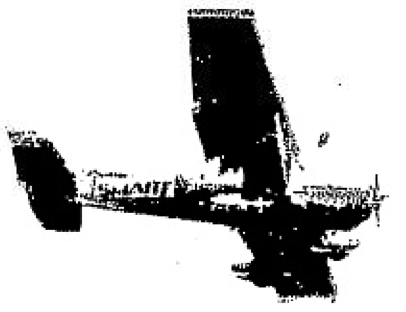
Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Nueva Vizcaya
Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Quezon
Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Palawan
Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Rizal
Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Romblon
Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCCOM) ng Siquijor

Isulong ang Repormang Agraryo! Tagumpay ng Kanayunan, Tagumpay ng Buong Bayan!

ADVT





Story by Jami Ledesma / Photography by Arney Nueum

MASSKARA '03

SMART Unmasks the City of Smiles

SMART took to the buzzing avenues and nightspots of Bacolod City just last week for a 7-day party marathon to celebrate the 24th Masskara Festival. Celebrations began on October 13 and culminated just last weekend with a series of showy shindigs and impressive pyrotechnics. Planeloads and shiploads of tourists flocked to the Negros Occidental capital from all over the country to join SMART and the ever-smiling Negrenses and experience the electrifying ambiance that has made Masskara one of the most exhilarating fiestas our country has ever dreamed up.

Highlights of the SMART Buddy events include performances by Kyla, Fuse Band, Joni Robles & Carol, Grupo Mari Teves, Passage and Freshmen. Needless to say, SMART Buddy spread its trademark Buddy Language like a happy virus everywhere they went, giving the City of Smiles even more to smile about.

And SMART sure did come in full force! Addict Mobile chose trendy and legendary Bar 21 as the place to give partyphiles their fix of that natural high with performances by, Revue, Kinegkoy, Indigo, the lovely Michelle Gallaga, Rage Band and Nina and her band—not to mention Volare Reunion, Steve Mills and Hot babes Body Painting in other hip hangouts like Café Breizh, North, Entertainment Depot and Azul.

SMART Gold and Talk 'N Text also joined in the festivities with events at Quorum and Bacolod Convention Plaza, with performances by After 10, The Boyfriends and Spirit of '67. Hoop fans were also treated to an exciting PBA game between Coke and FEDEX at the De La Salle University gym, thanks to Talk 'N Text.

And as the week-long party wrapped up and the visitors went their separate ways, the cheers of the crowd and the drumbeats of the parade continued to resound throughout the city, leaving the locals delightfully dizzy... and happily hungover.

Te, asta sa sunod nga tuig!

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DISAPPOINTING EARNINGS REPORTS

Asian stocks dive with Wall St. on profit woes

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks slid on Thursday, losing more than 3 percent in Japan, after disappointing earnings sparked Wall Street's biggest drop in a month and hit the dollar ahead of results from Sony and other technology bellwethers.

A host of Japanese exporters fell as the dollar dropped to 108.86 yen in New York, before recovering slightly to 109 yen in Asia, reviving fears their exports would be battered by the firmer yen.

"It's harvest time in both the US and Japan," said Hiroyuki Nakai, chief strategist at Tokai Tokyo Securities.

"Both markets have risen quite a bit and now it's time for taking profits."

Sony Corp., the world's largest consumer electronics maker, plunged 3.36 percent ahead of an earnings announcement later in the day expected to show a big fall in quarterly profit.

NEC Corp., Japan's biggest maker of mobile phones, dropped 5.2 percent. It is expected to report a quarterly net profit of 11.3 billion yen ($103 million) versus a year-ago loss, Its chip unit NEC Electronics, which posted a 65 percent jump in quarterly net profit on Wednesday, sank 6.7 percent.

The Nikkei average shed 3.44 percent to 10,515.31 points by midday, and the broad-based Topix index fell 3.62 percent to 1,034.87.

MSCI's broadest index of shares elsewhere in the region fell 1.3 percent from a three-year high struck on Wednesday.

Hong Kong stocks fell two percent.

South Korea's composite index dropped 2.3 percent to 760.56 as foreign investors sold top technology issue Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., rattled by a hefty fall in its US peers.

Samsung, which hit a record high of 471,000 won on Wednesday, dropped 3.3 percent as investors took profits in Asia's most valuable technology firm after the Philadelphia stock exchange's semiconductor index lost almost 3 percent.

US blue-chips and technology stocks suffered their biggest daily percentage drops in a month on Wednesday as investors feared that much of the upbeat earnings news had been priced into the market. The tech-heavy Nasdaq fell 2.21 percent.

Another Asian tech firm reporting on Thursday, Taiwan's AU Optronics Corp., slipped 1.2 percent. The world's largest maker of computer screens is expected to post a quadrupling of quarterly profits.

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., the world's largest contract microchip maker, fell 1.5 percent, pushing the benchmark index down 1 percent.

In Australia, Qantas shed 1.1 percent and Australian-listed shares in Air NZ fell 7.5 percent after New Zealand's competition watchdog gave its final rejection of the airlines' proposed alliance. The S&P/ASX 200 index was down 0.8 percent. *Reuters*

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3	318i Limousine	2002	Orient Blue	12,000 kms	1,625,000
4	318i Limousine	2002	Black Sapphire	7,000 kms	1,690,000
5	318i Limousine	2003	Steel Grey	5,000 kms	1,750,000
6	318i Limousine	2003	Titanium Silver	4,000 kms	1,750,000
7	318i Limousine	2003	Steel Grey	9,000 kms	1,730,000
8	318i Limousine	2003	Titanium Silver	8,000 kms	1,730,000
9	318i Sport	2003	Titanium Silver	5,000 kms	2,100,000
10	325i	2003	Titanium Silver	10,000 kms	2,350,000
11	325i	2003	Titanium Silver	4,000 kms	2,400,000
12	525i	2002	Titanium Silver	17,000 kms	2,550,000
13	525i	2002	Black Sapphire	13,000 kms	2,600,000
14	520i	2003	Titanium Silver	2,000 kms	2,800,000
15	Z4	2003	Black Sapphire	4,000 kms	2,980,000
16	525i	2003	Toledo Blue	7,000 kms	3,300,000

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3	320i	1998	Arktis Silver	66,000 kms	880,000
4	525i	1995	Alpine White	54,000 kms	850,000
5	X5 3.0i	2001	Black Sapphire	34,000 kms	3,100,000

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Japan recovery gets export lift

TOKYO—Japan's recovery got a lift from firm export growth in September, with demand from China at its highest ever, but concern over the strength of the US economy and a high yen tempered the optimism.

Exports rose 9.2 percent on year, helped by strong demand for electronics goods such as digital cameras, pushing Japan's trade surplus in the month up 4.8 percent to 1.1020 trillion yen ($10.11 billion), Ministry of Finance data showed on Thursday.

"The data showed Japanese exports are in a recovery phase, reflecting a steady pickup in the global economy," said Hisashi Yamada, economist at Japan Research Institute. "The export drive to China, which is enjoying high growth rate, continues."

Japan's nascent recovery hangs on the strength of its big exporters as domestic demand remains slow and consumers, worried by high unemployment and falling wages, pare back spending.

But while exports to China rose 42.4 percent in September to their highest level ever, exports to the United States, Japan's largest single market and worth twice that of China in value terms, fell by 7.3 percent for the ninth straight month of declines.

Some analysts said this raised concern that lackluster US demand could hurt Asian economies and eventually dampen Japan's overall exports. *Reuters*

Singapore seen to grow in '03

SINGAPORE—Singapore's economic outlook has brightened after the twin blows of the deadly SARS outbreak and weak demand for electronics exports, but only modest growth is seen this year before a strong pick-up in 2004, a Reuters poll showed.

Gross domestic product is likely to grow 0.8 percent in 2003 and accelerate to 5.0 percent next year, a quarterly Reuters poll of 10 financial institutions found.

Singapore suffered its sharpest contraction ever in the quarter from April to June, when the economy shrank at an annualized rate of 11.4 percent as tourists shunned the city state.

The economy rebounded in the period from July to September at an annualized rate of 15 percent as visitors returned, global electronics demand picked up and pharmaceutical output surged.

"The major economies, especially the US, are showing signs of recovery and there's the global electronics upturn," said Low Ping Yee, economist at United Overseas Bank (UOB).

Trade-dependent Singapore benefits quickly from a recovery in the United States, its largest market, which drives global demand for its electronics exports.

Electronics comprise about 53 percent of total non-oil exports and a quarter of manufacturing while services account for 62 percent of GDP.

Shipments to the US rebounded 4.8 percent in September from a year earlier, after a 23.5 percent fall in August.

Singapore's September non-oil domestic exports soared 25.9 percent from a year ago and expanded 10.7 percent from August in seasonally adjusted terms, adding to signs of economic recovery in the third quarter.

The Reuters poll found non-oil domestic exports would expand by a median 12.0 percent in 2003, up sharply from last year's 1.9 percent rise, and should grow 9.4 percent in 2004. *Reuters*

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People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

USA 88 is clean energy

BECAUSE we are part of your lives, we care for more things-this is the guiding philosophy of Filpride Energy Corp (FEC), developer and managing company of USA 88, for the brand. Its upcoming advertising campaign will both shock and endear the public.

"Who would think of using a baby for a gasoline station?" lawyer Ernest Maceda, corporate affairs consultant for FEC, explains. "But the total imagery it conveys clearly captures the corporate statement of the company: A commitment to become a responsible business entity for the nation-that is ensuring environment, health and the ecosystem is not compromised at the expense of profit."

Maceda adds USA 88 aims to be more attuned to the needs of the consumers, more responsive to the requirements of the industry and more sensitive to the demands of the community. He says USA 88 fully supports the DOE and DENR's continuous campaign to ensure the protection of the environment and health. It was among the first to comply with the Clean Air Act specifications for automotive diesel and unleaded gasoline. It will also work hand in hand with the respective community wherein the station operates to maintain a clean and safe surrounding.

USA 88 currently has stations in Sucat Road, Paranaque, Ortigas Extension, Pasig, Taktak Road, Antipolo, General Luna Street, San Mateo and Felix Avenue, Cainta.

BBDO GUERRERO ORTEGA NAMED BEST IN CREATIVE

The award, given recently by the 4As at the country's annual 'Agency of the Year' ceremonies, was given for 'excellence in creativity... Not only across different clients and accounts but also in the way the agency conceptualizes and executes ideas across different media vehicles.' It is the second time in the past three years that the agency has picked up this prize. The agency was also a finalist for the Agency of the Year award. BBDO Guerrero Ortega is an agency of the BBDO worldwide network. BBDO is one of the world's leading advertising agencies with 345 offices in 76 countries and is a member of the Omnicom Group. Shown are BBDO executives Josellto Ortega, vice chair, Susan Dimacali, president and CEO, Raymond So, chair, BBDO Asia-Pacific, David Guerrero, chair and ECD, and Tom Kao, deputy chair, BBDO Asia-Pacific

TEACHING CHINESE

Recognizing Mandarin as an important language of international trade and commerce, officials of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Tan Yan Kee Foundation, Inc, Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education (FUSE) and China's National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language (NOCFL) launch a special training program that will provide Filipino teachers with the latest techniques and approaches in teaching Mandarin, China's official language. Titled 'Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language', the two-week workshop will cater to Filipino teachers of Mandarin from various schools in the Philippines. Guests during the launching include FUSE founder and Tan Yan Kee chair Dr. Lucio C. Tan (4th from left, seated), Chinese Ambassador Wang Chungui, CHED Chair Bro. Rolando Dizon, FUSE president Salvador H. Escudero III and FUSE vice president Dr. Paulino Tan who is also president of Asia Pacific College, venue of the workshop.

Ghosts and goblins at Seven Suites

MAKE your Halloween extra memorable, exciting and equally frightening at Seven Suites Hotel Observatory as it marks this "scary-ber" month with a "Ghosts and Goblins, Princes' & Princesses: A Halloween Masquerade Party" to be held on Oct. 25, Saturday. The event aims to add a different twist to the usual Halloween party as Seven Suites has prepared surprises for kids. Kids will have an early chance to take the "scare." At around 5 p.m., kids will get into their zany outfits for the scariest costume contest. The fun continues with a pumpkin-carving contest while horror stories, movies and lots of giveaways will surely make this night memorable for them. After that, you can get to enjoy Seven Suites' sleek amenities in its luxuriously furnished and fully air-conditioned rooms overlooking the city. Seven Suites Hotel-Observatory is located along Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City, in front of Valley Golf Country Club. For more information, call 723-9366, 677-5401, or text 0920-7275670.

Torres High batch 1973 reunion

TORRES High School Batch '73 will be holding its reunion on Saturday, Nov. 22 at the Top of the Century, Century Park Sheraton in Malate, Manila at 7 p.m. For more details, call Ric Torres at 0917-5265350 or 725-1319.

ProductFILES

Oneida & Wilton all out sale

LOCAL distributor for Oneida Silverplate products and Wilton Bakeware will be having their annual warehouse sale. The 4-day sale will be from Oct. 24 to 26 at Unit 1105 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig. Discounts of up to 60 percent on fine silverware, houseware stainless, cake decorating accessories, imported dolls, baby ware and other gift items will be given during this much-awaited sale. Major credit cards will be accepted. For more information, call 631-5729 or 638-4585.

Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites GEPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PERSONAL COMPUTERS** for the **Department of Budget and Management.**

The approved budget for the contract to be bid is P3,120,000.00.

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-bid Conference on **November 07, 2003, 9:30 A.M. at the PS Conference Room, Room 207, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.**

The bid document shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting **October 24, 2003** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00).**

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the **PS Conference Room** at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and receipt of bids shall be on **November 20, 2003 at 9:30 A.M.**

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division** at telephone nos. **561-60-98 or 563-94-02.**

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI – October 24 & 31, 2003)

Philam Plans still pre-need leader

ONCE again Philam Plans bested others in the pre-need industry as of June 2003 with year-to-date pre-need sales amounting to P3.3 billion. The company's year-to-date market share was 20.64 percent.

The company's leadership position is attributed to its "strong pension plan production," amounting to P2 billion as of June. Its market share for this product was at 25.89 percent. The company's education plans continue to be a top sales earner, as it races for the prime spot from its current position as number three.

With its continued strong sales production, Philam Plans hopes to make a strong bat for the leadership position by the end of the year. The company's strength and strong financial backing from its parent companies, its sound investments and professional management of the business, as well as its adherence to SEC regulations continue to foster loyalty among its widening base of customers.

Philam Plans is affiliated with the Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company (Philamlife) and the American International Group (AIG). Philamlife is the number one life insurance company in the country, while AIG is the world's leading international insurance and financial services organization, with operations in approximately 130 countries and jurisdictions.

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
MANILA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Interested manufacturers are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the supply and delivery of office equipment (filing, safe file and storage steel cabinets) for the Lower Courts.

The approved budget for the contract is Three Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P3,750,000.00).

Prospective manufacturers may secure pre-qualification requirements and bid documents from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Property Division, Supreme Court, after payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).**

I. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

All pre-qualification requirements of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative on November 12, 2003 at exactly 2:00 p.m., 3rd Floor, Session Hall, Old Bldg., Supreme Court.

II. PRE-BID CONFERENCE

The pre-bid conference of pre-qualified bidders shall be on November 14, 2003 at 2:00 p.m., 3rd Floor, Session Hall, Old Bldg., Supreme Court.

III. OPENING OF BIDS

Only bids of pre-qualified bidders who participated in the pre-bid conference will be accepted and opened in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives on November 26, 2003 at 2:00 p.m., 3rd Floor, Session Hall, Old Bldg., Supreme Court.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

October 22, 2003.

(Sgd.) JOSE P. PEREZ
Chairman
Committee on Bids

(PDI – October 24 & 31, 2003)

Slim down with a good cup of coffee

FORGET that coffee keeps you awake at night or increases your blood pressure. Coffee can actually be good for you. Research consultants from the Institute of Coffee Studies at Vanderbilt University explains the potential health benefits of some of the hundred compounds in coffee. These compounds show to have potential health benefits such as combat cirrhosis of the liver, certain types of cancer, bronchial asthma, heart disease, and even Parkinson's disease. Studies have shown that non-coffee drinkers have a higher incident rate of these diseases than those who consume in moderation do.

Coffee Science Information in Britain states that antioxidants are known to protect against oxidative stress by mopping up free radicals, which destroys the cells and body tissues. These free radicals are known to be a major contributor to cardiovascular disease and decline both the immune and nervous system of the body. Moreover, preliminary studies from Coffee Science Information show that coffee is also a rich source of antioxidants that reduce the effects of harmful substances on the human body and even help fight a host of illnesses.

For the past 20 years, most research have been concentrated on coffee's major active ingredient, which is caffeine. Caffeine is known to stimulate the central nervous system and has long been used for pain relief and appetite control. The prospect that coffee could reduce weight is a vital and exciting lead for study.

Bavarian Brew Slimming Coffee is the first of its kind in the market duly registered and approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD). It is a concoction of the finest Arabica and Robusta beans mixed with premium Senna Herb to give one a slimmer and fit figure in an enjoyable cup.

Still worried that a cup of coffee before bedtime could keep you awake at night-it could just be a short-term effect-it may actually be good for you.

Clips

Green 2000 opens Landscape Unlimited

GREEN 2000 Garden Center, the country's premier one-stop-garden shop, will introduce a unique concept in landscape shopping with the opening of its new store Landscape Unlimited on Oct. 24. Landscape Unlimited, a complete store for landscaping products, designs, services and information, is located at Greenhouse 1, a 1,200 sqm lot at the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation compound near Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. The one-stop landscaping depot showcases a permanent landscape area, koi ponds and a display area for various landscaping needs. What's unique is a display of five different landscapes by the country's leading landscapers-Yuyong LaO, Jimmy Floro, Oliver Ang, Jerome de Jesus, and Francis Gener. The center will also launch a Hydroponic Demo Farm to help those who wish to engage in cash crop farming. Call 434-2347.

Ultrasound, breast cancer awareness month

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Ultrasound in Clinical Medicine Inc (PSUCMI) announces that the application for training in ultrasound by experts of the World Federation of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB) is being accepted to coincide with the ultrasound awareness month. The ultrasound is the "stethoscope" of the 3rd millennium. Applicants who have one-year experience in doing ultrasound examination in OB-Gyn, general abdominal, small parts (breast, thyroid and orbit), endorectal and urology and trauma, and are committed to train others may send their letter of application to Dr. Amaryllis Digna O. Yazon, PSUCMI secretary, Room 26 of the Philippine Children's Medical Center, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, or call 924-6601 local 284, 267, fax 924-7952. Deadline for application is Dec. 1.

RTU IE, ITU 1st homecoming

THE INDUSTRIAL Engineering/Industrial Technology Department of the Rizal Technological University invites members to its 1st Industrial Engineering/Industrial Technology Alumni Homecoming on Oct. 26, Sunday, at 5 p.m. at the ITB Quadrangle. The theme is "Ang Kahapon at Ngayon ng IE at IT ng RTU". For more information about the activity, call Aldwin M. Romasanta at 822-5501, 0919-6299182, Nestor Mirhan Japis at 564-8483, or 0917-3570416.

Physicians' confab in Clarkfield

THE PHILIPPINE College of Physicians Central Luzon Chapter is hosting this year's 15th Midyear Convention at the Holiday Inn Resort, Clarkfield, Angeles City on Oct. 23 and 24. Its scientific committee has chosen the theme "Eruptions: What's New in the Horizon?" to provide participants with the latest information in the diagnosis and treatment of various diseases in the field of Internal Medicine.

1st Asian confab of shrine rectors

ARCHBISHOP Agostino Marchetto DD, secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples leads the guests and delegates to the First Asian Conference of Shrine Rectors to be held in Manila from Oct. 20 to 24 at the Bahay Pari of the San Carlos Seminary Complex. With the theme "Shrine a Place of Welcome and Encounter", the Conference is being convened by the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, CBCP Episcopal Commission on Migrants and Itinerant people, and the Association of Shrine Rectors of the Philippines (ASRP). The 5-day conference will bring together rectors of the different shrines in Central and Southeast Asia to discuss the role of shrines in Asia.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION, ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-MMSD 2003-006

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-MMSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

Date of Bidding : November 18, 2003 - 10:00 a.m.
Sinulog Function Room

Pre-Bid Conference : November 4, 2003 - 2:00 p.m.
Hariraya Function Room

"OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF NPC HEAD OFFICE CAFÉ - 'THE SOLARIUM' FOR TWO YEAR CONTRACT AT NPC-OBC, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY"

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above using THREE (3) ENVELOPE SYSTEM to be opened publicly at the Hariraya Function Room, Ground Floor, Bldg. 1, NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility and bid documents may be obtained from the Materials Management Services Division (MMSD), Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Bldg. 1, NPC-OBC, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of P600.00 which is non-refundable and submission of SEC/DTI registration or in case of cooperative, CDA registration starting **October 24, 2003**. Issuance of eligibility and bid documents shall be in the morning only, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. No bid documents will be issued seven (7) days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at Hariraya Function Room, on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same though proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of R.A. No. 9184.

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount of TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) in the form of either Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids; and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) **NATALIA O. GUINTO**
Officer-in-Charge, Bids and Awards Committee
MMSD-NPC

(PDI - Oct. 24 & 30, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites GEPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, CONFIGURATION AND TESTING of NETWORK UPGRADE** for Securities and Exchange Commission.

The approved budget for the contract to be bid is P3,543,500.00.

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-bid Conference on November 07, 2003, 1:30 P.M. at the PS Conference Room, Room 207, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting October 24, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00).

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the PS Conference Room at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and receipt of bids shall be on November 20, 2003 at 1:30 P.M.

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division** at telephone nos. 561-60-98 or 563-94-02.

PS reserves the right to reject to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI – October 24 & 31, 2003)

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In the National Court of Justice
at Waigani Papua New Guinea
MC NO. 1 OF 1999

BETWEEN
YOLISA ADOLFO
Petitioner,
AND
ALEXANDER ADOLFO
Respondent.
x------------------------------------x

AMENDED

PETITION FOR DECREE OF DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE
On 22/03/02 by leave granted on 22/03/02

Filed 22 March 2002
MALADINAS LAWYERS
Suite 1, Ground Floor, Investwell Building
Allotment 30, Section 38
New Hohola Commercial Estate
PO Box 1475, PORT MORESBY
Tel 311 2311 / Fax 311 2322
File KMF ADOLFO/026098
DOC PETITION (AMENDED)-200302

In the National Court of Justice at Waigani Papua New Guinea)
MC NO 1 OF 1999

BETWEEN
YOLISA ADOLFO
Petitioner
AND
ALEXANDER ADOLFO
Respondent

AMENDED PETITION
FOR DECREE OF DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE
On 22/03/02 by leave granted on 22/03/02

To The National Court of Justice, Waigani, NCD

THE PETITIONER, whose address is Care of PO Box 4639, Boroko, N C D and whose occupation is a hair dresser, petitions the Court against the Respondent, whose address is MV Spyridon Ch., Care of Wave Maker Shipping Co. Ltd. Worldwide Ocean Chartering Corporation 33, Bouboulinas St. 18535 Piraeus Greece and whose occupation is a musician on the ground that the parties to the marriage have been separated and have lived separately and apart for a continuous period of not less than nine (9) years immediately preceding the date of the petition, and there is no reasonable likelihood of cohabitation being resumed

Marriage

1 The Petitioner, then a spinster, was lawfully married to the Respondent, then a bachelor at Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines on 14th February 1981 according to the provisions of the *Marriage Act*

2 The surname of the Petitioner immediately before the marriage was Guevarra

Birth of Petitioner and Respondent

3. The Petitioner was born at Bayawan, Negros Oriental, Philippines on 23rd January 1959 and the Respondent was born at Baguio, Philippines in 1953

4. The Petitioner first entered Papua New Guinea on a working visa in January 1989

5. The Petitioner has since her first arrival in Papua New Guinea continuously lived in Papua New Guinea (except for temporary absences as follows)
   (a) In the end of August 1991 and December 1992 for two weeks to visit her family in Manila
   (b) Similar visits during the period December 1993 and September 1994 and September 1995 and December 1995

Domicile or Residence

6. Both the Petitioner and the Respondent were citizens of Philippines and were resident and domiciled in Philippines at the time of the marriage

6A The Petitioner is domiciled in Papua New Guinea ("PNG") when the Petition herein was filed. The Petitioner entered PNG on 22 January 1989, and has resided in PNG up until January 1999, that is for a period of not less than three years.

Cohabitation

7 Particulars of the place where the Petitioner and the Respondent have cohabited are as follows
From the date of the marriage on 14th February 1981, the parties resided in the family home in Makati Metro Manila, Philippines until 22nd January 1989, when the Respondent permanently deserted the family home

8. The date on which and circumstances in which cohabitation between the Petitioner and Respondent ceased are as follows
On 5th January 1989 the Petitioner left the Respondent and the children of the marriage by reason of her employment in Papua New Guinea
On 22nd January 1989, the Respondent left the matrimonial home for Greece to work with a shipping company based in Greece
Except for few letters soon after the Respondent had arrived in Greece, the Respondent has lost contact with the Petitioner since around June 1989
The Petitioner and the Respondent have not communicated or cohabited since then:

Children

9 Particulars relating to the children to whom Section 29 of the Rules apply are as follows:
(a) CHERYL ANN, a female, born 30th July 1978

Previous Proceedings

10 Since the marriage there have not been any legal proceedings in a Court between the Petitioner and the Respondent

Facts

11 Facts relied on by the Petitioner as constituting ground for divorce is as follows
(i) That since January 1989, the Petitioner and Respondent have been separated and have lived separately and apart for a continuous period of not less than nine (9) years immediately preceding the date of the petition and there is no reasonable likelihood of cohabitation being resumed

Condonation, Connivance and Collusion

12. The Petitioner has not condoned or connived at the ground specified above and is not guilty of collusion in presenting this Petition

Proposed Arrangements for Children

13. The Petitioner proposes that
(a) CHERYL ANN be ordered to remain in the custody and under the guardianship of the Petitioner

Maintenance and Settlement of Property

Nil

Orders Sought

The Petitioner seeks the following Orders
A A decree of dissolution of the marriage
B An order that the Respondent pay the Petitioner's costs of and incidental to these proceedings
C An order that CHERYL ANN remain in the custody and under the guardianship of the Petitioner which order shall take all possible cognizance of the views of the said children, which shall be fully canvassed
D Such further or other orders ancillary to the preceding orders as this Honourable Court shall deem fit with liberty to apply.

The Petition was settled by Gregory James Sheppard by his Associate Kenneth M Frank of Maladinas, lawyers for the Petitioner.

Dated the 20th day of March 2002

G J Sheppard by his Associate
Kenneth M Frank of Maladinas
Lawyers for the Petitioner

This Petition is filed by Gregory James Sheppard by his Associate Kenneth M Frank of Maladinas, lawyers for the Petitioner Investwell Building Allotment 30, Section 38, New Hohola Commercial Estate, PO Box 1475 Port Moresby, NCD

G.J. Sheppard by his Associate
Davis M Steven of Maladinas
Lawyers for the Petitioner

(PDI - Oct. 24, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
MANILA BRANCH 10

IN RE: PETITION FOR CORRECTION
OF ENTRIES IN THE CERTIFICATE OF
LIVE BIRTH OF JUDE ALDWIN DELA
CRUZ CANTILLER OF THE LOCAL CIVIL
REGISTRAR OF THE CITY OF MANILA
SP. PROC. NO. 02-105103

SPS. JOSEPH G. CANTILLER &
MAIDEN DELA CRUZ-CANTILLER,
Petitioners
x-----------------------x

ORDER

Through a verified petition, petitioners SPS. JOSEPH G. CANTILLER AND MAIDEN DELA CRUZ-CANTILLER seeks to correct the following entries in the certificate of Live Birth of their son Judge Aldwin Dela Cruz Cantiller in the following manner, to wit:

	FROM	TO
1. date and place of marriage of parents	July 20, 1989 Manila	January 10, 1995 San Juan, Metro Manila

2. and to declare Jude Aldwin Dela Cruz Cantiller as legitimate child.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the petition be set for hearing on October 28, 2003 at 8:30 in the morning before the sala of the Assisting Judge of this Court at Room 503, 5th Floor, Manila City Hall. All interested parties are hereby notified of said hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published, at the expense of the petitioner, once a week for three consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Manila, to be selected by a raffle pursuant to P.D. No. 1079.

Let copies of the petition together with the annexes and copy of this Order be served upon the Office of the Solicitor General and the Civil Registrar of the City of Manila.

SO ORDERED.

Manila, Philippines, September 24, 2003.

(Sgd.) ROSARIO C. CRUZ
Assisting Judge

(PDI – October 10, 17 & 24, 2003)

NOTICE

Please be informed that Provisional Receipts bearing numbers 29244 to 29250 of METRO INDUSTRIES, INC. were stolen last Oct. 21, 2003.

Hence, any transactions or payments covered by the aforesaid Provisional Receipts shall not be honored.

(PDI-Oct 24, 2003)

NOTICE

Please be informed that Official Receipts bearing numbers 7768 to 7800 and Provisional Receipts bearing numbers 2686 to 2700 of METRO SHIKISO CHEMICAL CO., INC. were stolen last Oct. 21, 2003.

Hence, any transactions or payments covered by the aforesaid Official and Provisional Receipts shall not be honored.

(PDI-Oct 24, 2003)

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   - ZAMBOANGA
   - PALAWAN CITY

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby made, that certain documents denominated as:

1) Promissory note with the assignment of asset together with the,
2) Fifteen pieces of Real Bank checks –
   a) Check No. 0000009259 dated July 10, 2003 – Php 2.5 Million
   b) Check No. 0000009260 dated July 10, 2003 – Php 2.5 Million
   c) Check No. 0000009288 dated July 18, 2003 – Php 2.5 Million
   d) Check No. 0000009289 dated July 18, 2003 – Php 2.5 Million
   e) Check No. 0000009290 dated July 18, 2003 – Php 2.5 Million
   f) Check No. 0000009291 dated July 18, 2003 – Php 2.5 Million
   g) Check No. 0000009292 dated July 15, 2003 – Php 10,000.00
   h) Check No. 0000009293 dated July 21, 2003 – Php 63,000.00
   i) Check No. 0000009294 dated July 18, 2003 – Php 2.5 Million
   j) Check No. 0000009295 dated July 18, 2003 – Php 2.5 Million
   k) Check No. 0000009296 dated July 18, 2003 – Php 750,000.00
   l) Check No. 0000009297 dated July 18, 2003 – Php 750,000.00
   m) Check No. 0000009298 dated July 18, 2003 – Php 750,000.00
   n) Check No. 0000009299 dated July 18, 2003 – Php 3 Million
   o) Check No. 0000009300 dated July 18, 2003 – Php 1.5 Million
3) Six set of Deed of Sale or Motor Vehicle over the six (6) unit of Motor Vehicle –
   a) Mitsubishi Pajero with Plate No. TYN-808, Serial No. L049G300557, Motor No. 4D56D-P1743, Certificate of Registration No. 03094514;
   b) Mitsubishi Gallant VR-V6 with Plate No. TMV-593, Serial No. E55ASN-00219, Motor no. 4G63A-A3251, Certificate of Registration No. 70583321,
   c) Mitsubishi Adventure with Plate No. WJC-170, Serial No. PAEVB5 WLXXB000382, Motor No. 4D56A-K2748, Certificate of Registration No. 03932550,
   d) Nissan Patrol with Plate No. USU-552, Serial No. CRGY60 – Y02906, Motor No TD42 – 121400, Certificate of Registration No. 72643937,
   e) Honda Civic with Plate No. WGJ-446, Serial No. PADEK1540XV101164, Motor No. P6FDI-P401147, Certificate of Registration No. 03933347,
   f) Ford Mark III with Plate No. WJD-808, Serial No. LFDRE14LXXHB23669, Motor No. XHB23069, Certificate of Registration No. 85859190. and
4) Documents of Encumbrance over two (2) Titled Property under TCT No. 667504 and TCT No. 667505 located at Vista Verde Executive Village, Cainta, Rizal allegedly executed by LELITA M. ESPERANZA/ACOSTA in favor of a certain GUILLERMA L. AZAOLA, are all **INVALID**, and **NULL AND VOID, WITHOUT FORCE AND EFFECT**, being a **FALSIFIED DOCUMENTS, PROCURED ILLEGALY** and **FRAUDULENTLY MADE BY GUILLERMA L. AZAOLA** and **WILFREDO RED**, per Document No. 466, Page No. 94, Book No. 381, Series of 2003 of the Notarial Register of **ATTY. LUCILA M. LAWAS-YUTOK** for the City of Pasig and as per Document No. 467, Page No. 94, Book No. 381, Series of 2003 of the Notarial Register of **ATTY. LUCILA M. LAWAS-YUTOK** for the City of Pasig.

SGD. LELITA M. ESPERANZA

(PDI–Oct. 24, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Visit the SSS website for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

CONSTRUCTION WORKS

The **SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM** is inviting General Building Contractors with a minimum experience of five (5) years for the construction of the following SSS Branch Offices:

Branch Offices	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Source of Funding	Contract Duration
SSS Calamba, Laguna	P22,752,480.40	Capital Expenditure Building Construction	Five (5) months
SSS San Fernando, La Union	P19,012,386.90	Capital Expenditure Building Construction	Four (4) months

Scope of work covers civil, architectural/interior, electrical, mechanical, sanitary and other miscellaneous works to complete the project.

Prospective bidders should be an accredited General Building Contractor with valid license and classification issued by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) including registration and classification of contractors for government infrastructure.

	PCAB License	PCAB Registration/ Classification
General Building Contractor	Category AA	Medium "B"

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Issuance of eligibility requirements upon presentation of original & valid licenses, size/range & kind of project issued by PCAB	Oct. 24 to Nov. 10, 2003	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building
Deadline of submission of eligibility requirements	Nov. 13, 2003	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Bldg.
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P20,000.00 for SSS Calamba and P10,000.00 for SSS San Fernando, La Union	Nov. 26, 2003	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building
Site Inspection • SSS Calamba, Laguna	Nov. 27, 2003 10:00 a.m.	Brgy. Parian, National Hi-way, Calamba, Laguna
• SSS San Fernando, La Union	Nov. 28, 2003 3:00 p.m.	Brgy. Sevilla, San Fernando, La Union
Pre-bid Conference	Dec. 01, 2003 2:00 p.m.	Bidding Room, 6th Floor, SSS Main Bldg.
Submission & Opening of Bids shall be announced and confirmed through a Bid Bulletin.		

For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers 922-2991 or 920-6401 local 5490/5491.

The bidding shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - Oct. 24, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) with office address at P. Paredes cor. Morayta Sts., Sampaloc, Manila, invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for any or all of the following:

ITEMS FOR BIDDING	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT	DATE OF PRE-BID CONFERENCE	DURATION OF THE PROJECT
Licensure Examination Registration Information System (LERIS)	P 20 Million	November 19, 2003, at 10:00 a.m., PABE Conference Room 3rd Floor, PRC Main Bldg.	1-1/2 Years but Walk-In Exams should be piloted in February 2004
Central Records Management Information System (CRMIS)	P 10 Million	November 19, 2003, at 2:00 p.m., PABE Conference Room, 3rd Floor, PRC Main Bldg.	1-1/2 Years Pilot of retrieval of scanned, sorted, and indexed documents in February 2004

The LERIS shall cover the design, development, enhancement, and installation of an on-line system for PRC's business processes from the filing of application of a candidate for licensure examination in a particular profession, the planning and administration of examination, the release of the examination results, the licensing of professionals and related support functions in the central office with the end view of replicating all or some of the services/functions in the regional offices and at the Philippine Consulates abroad. The project includes the provision of the necessary hardware, software, services and networking facilities to make LERIS operational.

The CRMIS shall cover the enhancement of PRC records management system, conversion of important PRC records to digital format, development and installation of a computerized storage, indexing and retrieval system, and the configuration design, acquisition, and installation of the necessary hardware and software components to implement the system.

Bidders may consist of local or joint local and foreign consultants duly registered with the SEC and/or any agency authorized by the laws of the Philippines. Any bidder not yet registered with the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for consulting services is required to register and may obtain the list of the registration/eligibility requirements at the Office of Commissioner Leonor Tripon-Rosero, at the 2nd Floor, PRC Main Bldg. starting on October 20, 2003.

The registration/eligibility requirements for both projects shall be submitted separately for each project to the Office of Commissioner Leonor Tripon-Rosero not later than 5 o'clock p.m. on October 27, 3003.

Prospective BIDDERS shall be evaluated using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria against a checklist of requirements. ONLY ELIGIBLE PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS shall undergo short-listing based on the following criteria:

	Weights (%)	
	CRMIS	LERIS
Experience of the Firm on Systems Integration	60	60
Qualification and Availability of Personnel to be assigned to these projects	30	30
Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Equipment	10	10

The Bidding documents and Terms of Reference (TOR) of the above projects shall be made available ONLY TO SHORTLISTED BIDDERS after paying a non-refundable fee of TEN THOUSAND (P10,000) PESOS for each project at the Office of Commissioner Leonor Tripon-Rosero within ten (10) days from issuance of Shortlist of prospective bidders.

The bids shall be evaluated using the **QUALITY BASED METHOD for LERIS** and the **QUALITY-COST BASED METHOD for the CRMIS.**

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act (GRPA), and its implementing rules and regulations.

The Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, or to annul the bidding process at any time prior to contract award, to waive any required formality in the bids received or defects therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Commission, without giving any reason thereto and incurring any liability to the affected Bidder/s.

The PRC does not assume any obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense that may be incurred in the preparation of their bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Recommendation to award by the BAC is subject to the final approval by the Chairperson of the Commission.

For any inquiry, please call the BAC Chairperson at telephone number: 735-1536.

(Sgd.) ANTONIETA FORTUNA-IBE
Chairperson

(PDI – October 17 & 24, 2003)

TECHNICAL
EDUCATION
AND SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY
TESDA

INVITATION TO BID

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) now invites interested eligible bidders to submit sealed bids for the WATER PROOFING of TESDA Central Office Administration Building located at East Service Road, South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Bidding documents may be obtained by eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine pesos 500.00 from the Property and Supply Division, 3rd Floor, TESDA Complex, Administration Building starting October 23, 2003.

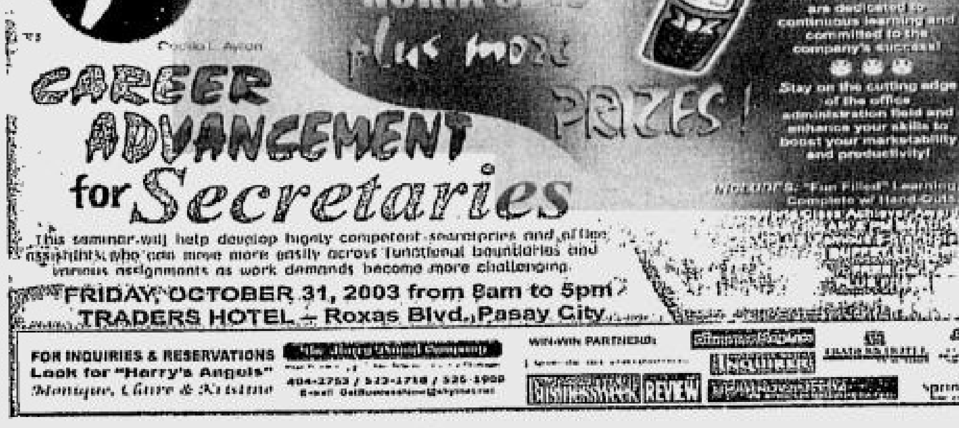
A pre-bid conference will be held on November 12, 2003, 2:00 p.m. at the Conference Room, Office of the Regional Director, Region IV-A, to thresh out relevant issues and to arrive at a uniform basis for submission and evaluation of offers.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in local currency in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit of not less than one percent (1%) of the total bid price and must be delivered at the Conference Room, Office of the Regional Director, Region IV-A on or before 2:00 p.m. of November 26, 2003. Late bids will not be accepted.

TESDA reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informality in the bids received or to acept such bids which may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ALCESTIS M. GUIANG**
Director General

(PDI--Oct. 17 & 24, 2003)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In Loving Memory
on the
11th Death Anniversary
of

ATTY. GREGORIO R. CASTILLO

of
Buhi, Camarines Sur

Founding Partner of
CASTILLO LAMAN TAN PANTALEON
& SAN JOSE LAW OFFICES

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches
on October 24, 2003.

ST. PETER'S PARISH Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City	12:00 n.n.
NUESTRA SEÑORA DELA ESTRADA La Vista, Quezon City	6:00 p.m.
RESURRECTION PARISH BF Homes, Parañaque City	6:30 p.m.
PRESENTATION OF THE CHILD JESUS PARISH CHURCH BF Homes, Parañaque City	7:00 p.m.
PARISH OF ST. JAMES THE GREAT Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	6:20 a.m.
ST. JEROME AMILIANI Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	6:00 p.m.
ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH Pasay Road, Makati City	6:00 p.m.
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH Forbes Park, Makati City	12:15 n.n.
ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH Bel-Air, Makati City	6:30 p.m.

SALVADOR ORBETA COROZA

of Lilio, Laguna

*Peacefully joined his Creator
on October 22, 2003 at the age of 70.*

His loving wife **Melania**; children **Oliver & Elena, Nong & Rorie, Bessie & Margie**; grandchildren **Mayie, Mifflin, Krya & Charles** and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Family Chapel, Mabini St., Barangay 5, Calamba City, Laguna.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 25, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at Holy Family Memorial Park, Calamba, Laguna.

ASUNCION RARO MARTIRES

of Oas, Albay & Naga City

*Died in the Grace of the Lord
on October 22, 2003.*

Her loving children **Ruben & Ludy, Nonito & Charito, Gilbert & Nelly, Juan & Tessie**; her grandchildren, sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel-Sucat, Parañaque up to Oct. 25, 2003, Saturday. On October 26, 2003, Sunday, her body will be flown to Naga City. Interment will be at the Sto. Niño Memorial Park on Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2003.

HIPOLITO AGAPITO R. YANGCO

1931 – 2003

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 22, 2003.

His loving wife **Corazon**; children **Carmina & Arnold**; daughter-in-law **Nerissa**; grandchildren **Sarah Jessica & Stephen Joshua**; brothers & sister request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Floresco Funeral Homes, 219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 26, 2003 at Our Lady of Lourdes Eternal Park, Malabon City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Immaculate Concepcion Parish.

MILAGROS LONTOK KATIGBAK

of Lipa City, Batangas

*Peacefully joined her Creator
on Wednesday, October 22, 2003 at the age of 70.*

Her parents **Artemio** (†) and **Lilia** (†) **Katigbak**; brothers, sisters and spouses: **Violeta** (†) and **Fernando** (†) **Gancayco**, **Ludy** and **Moises** (†) **Espinosa**, **Liberato** and **Teresita de la Rosa**, **Emily** and **Ramon A. Jison**, **Fred** and **Nene Tinio**, **Beth** and **Sonny Lozano**; nephews, nieces and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the San Sebastian Cathedral in Lipa City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 26, 2003 after the 2:30 p.m. Mass at the Roman Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donation to San Antonio de Padua Chapel in Barangay 10, Lipa City is highly appreciated.

We lovingly remember

Jose Artemio N. Esteban, MD, MSc

On the 40th day of his eternity
His family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.
He will be remembered in the following masses:

Parish of the Holy Sacrifice *UP Diliman, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish Church *Philam Homes, Quezon City*	6:30 a.m.
Good Shepherd Parish Church *Fairview, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
Christ the King *E. Rodriguez Sr., Blvd., Q.C.*	6:00 a.m.
Philippine General Hospital Chapel *Taft Avenue, Manila*	6:30 a.m.
St. Joseph Catholic Church *Conway, Arkansas*	6:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Parish Church *Shrewsbury, Massachusetts*	8:30 a.m.
St. Stephen Catholic Church *Washington, D.C*	5:30 p.m.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

GIBSON CYRUS C. TAN

*Peacefully joined the Lord
on October 21, 2003 at the age of 22.*

His bereaved parents **AMADO & ESTELA**; brother **CHESTER**; sister **EILIS**; and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 26, 2003 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 7:30 a.m. Mass.

"Even
when I
walk
through
a dark
valley,
I feel no
harm,
For you
are at my
side, your
rod and
staff give
me
courage..."
Psalm 23:4

THE CONGREGATION OF THE
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY (CICM)

requests your prayers for

REV. FR. WALTER DE VILDER, CICM

born in St. Maartens-Leerne, East Flanders, Belgium on May 10, 1929, he died in San Juan, Metro Manila on October 22, 2003, at the age of 74.

He served as Assistant Priest in Paco and Parañaque, and as Parish Priest in Cainta (Rizal) and Lagro (Ascension of Our Lord Parish and Our Lady of Visitation Parish). He was Parish Priest of Our Lady of Visitation Parish from 1999 until the time of his death.

His remains lie in state at the
- Our Lady of Visitation Parish, Sacred Heart Village, Lagro until October 24
- Our Lady of Light Parish, Cainta, Rizal until October 25
- Our Lady of Ascension Parish, Lagro until 6:00 a.m. of October 26

after which his remains will be transferred to the Maryhurst Seminary Chapel in Baguio City.

Interment will be on October 27, 2003 (Monday), at the CICM Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass of the Resurrection at the Maryhurst Seminary Chapel, Baguio City.

PLEASE PRAY TO THE LORD FOR HIS ETERNAL REPOSE.

In Loving Memory
on the Third Death Anniversary

ARCHT. EDUARDO "NED" GONZALES RAMOS

(29 July 1948 – 24 October 2000)

Holy Masses will be offered in the following churches on October 24, 2003:

SANCTUARIO DE SAN AGUSTIN Mc. Kinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City	6:00 PM
SANCTUARIO DE SAN JOSE, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	6:15 PM
MARY THE QUEEN PARISH, Greenhills, San Juan	6:00 PM
ARCHDIOCESAN SHRINE OF DIVINE MERCY Maysilo St., Mandaluyong City	6:00 PM
SAN ROQUE PARISH CHURCH, Barangka, Mandaluyong City	6:00 AM
PARISH OF SAN FELIPE NERI, Mandaluyong City	6:00 AM

Request the readers, relatives and friends to say a prayer in his memory.

We miss you so much...
Love,
MARITA, JET and BILLIE

SERGIO O. CASCANTE

*"A Dear Husband
and Loving Father"*

*Peacefully joined his Creator
on October 23, 2003
at the age of 66.*

His loving wife **FE** and daughter **GRACIEL**; brothers **FORTUNATO, JOSE, REYNALDO** and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment schedule will be announced later.

**In Loving Memory
On the 27th Death Anniversary of**

ADALIA B. PEÑAFLORIDA

Who passed away on 24 October 1976.
Masses will be offered on
Friday, 24 October 2003 at the following:

Sanctuario de San Antonio *Forbes Park*	12:15 noon
Sanctuario de San Jose *Greenhills*	7:15 a.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori *Magallanes*	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Beautiful Love *Merville*	6:00 p.m.
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice *UP*	6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph's Church *Pototan, Iloilo*	5:30 a.m.
St. Clement's Church *La Paz, Iloilo*	5:30 p.m.

The Family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

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BUSINESS

WB asked to revive $200-M loan

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES has asked the World Bank to revive a $200-million program loan for the strengthening of the public finance sector, which was shelved in 2001 due to failure to meet the loan conditions.

A government official present during the meeting with World Bank representatives yesterday said that with the improving fiscal performance of the state, it was now possible to revive the program loan.

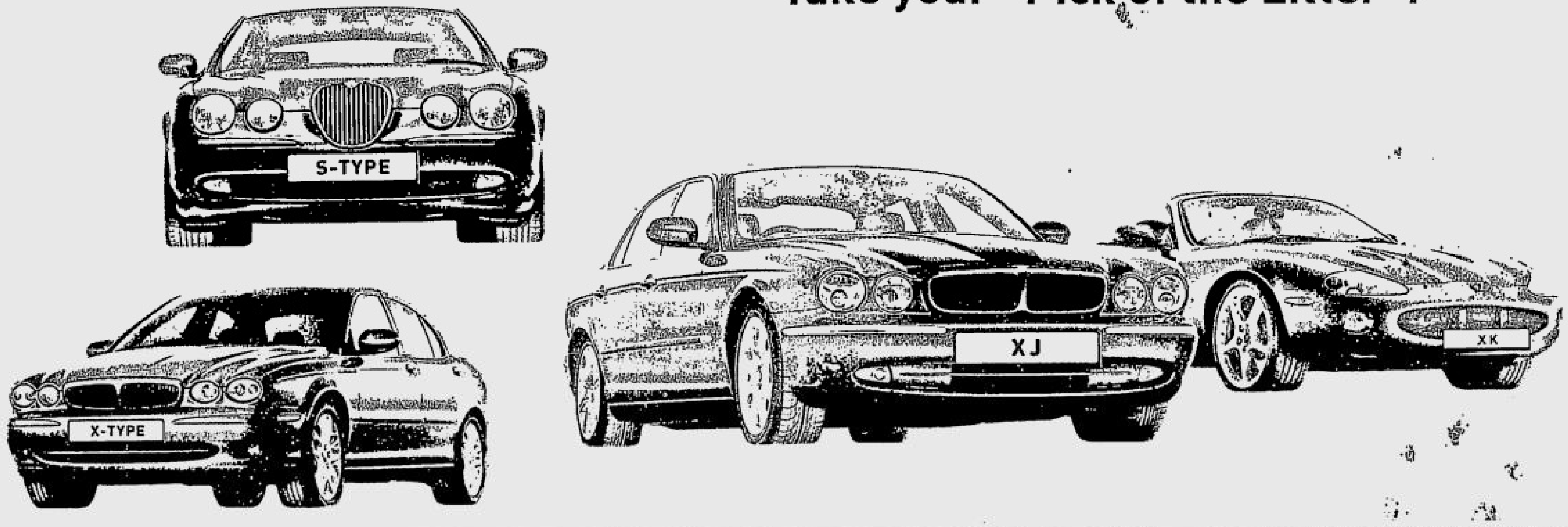
The government was forced to defer the program because of its failure to check the ballooning budget deficit arising from huge revenue shortfalls two years ago.

The World Bank said it wanted to see an improved track record in revenue collection before reopening negotiations on the $200-million program loan.

With the government's improved budget performance since the second quarter of the year, the official said the country would now pursue the $200-million program loan for fiscal year 2004.

The finance department wants a one-time loan draw-down. It also hopes to obtain a co-financing arrangement from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

The program loan will cover part of the $2.2-billion foreign financing requirement of the national government.



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Bicol specialties go international

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—The growing market demand of Overseas Filipino Workers and foreign patrons for two well-known delicacies of the region—the Bicol express and the laing--prompted Moonbake Inc. owner Ana Manrique, a native of Malinao, Albay, to produce hygienically packed and preserved foods with the goal of placing Bicolano dishes on the world food map.

"There are so many Bicolano dishes that seem to be world class in character like the Bicol Express and *laing*, as they are being relished by so many people not only here in the Philippines but also worldwide," Manrique notes.

The Bicol Express is a mixture of chili pepper, with bits of tasty meat or fish and other spices simmered in coconut cream (gata).

Laing, on the other hand, has for its main ingredients taro (gabi) leaves and stalks slowly cooked in coconut milk and seasoned with ginger and sili (Philippine hot pepper). This could also be mixed with shrimp, fish or meat for variation. It's very spicy and creamy.

Aside from the local market, Moonbake Inc. exports these Bicol specialties to the United States, Middle East, United Kingdom, Japan, Taiwan, Canada and Australia to reach as many Filipinos and other patrons abroad as possible.

Although she has been based in Las Piñas and Taguig, Metro Manila for so many years, Manrique, 46 and a mother to three children, never forgot the native dishes that she really loved to cook and eat.

MOONBAKE INC. owner Anna Manrique with canned Bicol specialties which find its way to the international market.

"Being a Bicolana myself (my parents are from the provinces of Sorsogon and Albay), I am familiar with the dishes we prepare in our home. My husband and I were both excited upon knowing, seeing and tasting laing dish in a can, which lasts for a year without preservatives," she boasts.

"We are also looking for new products for export because our bakery business, which caters to the local market, is having some difficulties due to high cost of raw materials like flour, sugar, milk and cocoa," Manrique adds.

Bakery products

Before she and her husband, Rufino, a mechanical engineer, ventured into the production of canned food, they first ventured in the bakery business af-

BICOL/ B2-2

THAI MARKETING LESSON

Adopt a 'one product, one village' export policy at home

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

AN AWESOME elephant comes to mind when Thailand's exports are discussed.

No, make that a mammoth, a charging mammoth. The wonder is that her exports often come from the "backward" rural sector. Thailand is a major exporter of countryside products: from textile to jewelry to processed food.

What can Filipino firms and bureaus learn from the Thai marketing system? Here are the basic components.

One product, one village

Villages are encouraged to specialize in a particular product. The products have to comply with high standards, and those that make the grade are stamped with the seal of world-class quality. The items are then featured in the Net for global e-commerce.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has taken to this concept.

"You know, when (Prime Minister) Thaksin first talked about 'one town, one product' ... everybody made fun of him," she said in a TIME interview. "But one year later, other countries were also replicating it, including the Philippines. The economists call it "managed asset reflation."

Another term for it is "clustering." Enterprises of the same industry are put close together and it makes marketing sense.

Clustering helps bring down transactions costs. It is far easier to collect products from craftsmen in the same village than to collect from artisans scattered across entire provinces. The model also lessens the need for middlemen.

Volume orders are cheaper to fulfill. This, in turn, attracts the bigger buyers: companies from the cities and from abroad.

When village enterprises are united under a common product line, they can build up their social capital. Villagers can then form cooperatives for credit and wholesale purchases.

Clustering also results in faster upgrades. The entrepreneurs see the new techniques employed by the most progressive in their ranks. The technology is then copied.

Clustering allows artisans to employ division of labor. Some village enterprises grow the raw materials, others process it into intermediate goods, and the rest apply the artistic touches.

Because of this division of labor, the entrepreneurs get to share in the costs and risks of innovation. Upgrades happen more quickly in clusters because of scale economies. When entire villages produce large volumes, export agents come in. They know where the markets are and what trends are sweeping the industry.

Familiar with the global cutting edge, they introduce new techniques to their subcontractors.

Technological support

How can rural entrepreneurs connect with urban and foreign buyers? Thailand has been rolling out "telecenters" to the many villages.

Each basic telecenter has at least one phone line. It must also have a fax machine, personal computers with printers and Internet access, a digital camera, and a scanner. The telecenter can upgrade later on: it can acquire multiple phone lines, television and video facilities, a video camera, an overhead projector, a photocopier, a laminating machine and a meeting room.

Local entrepreneurs are thus equipped. They can make and take calls, fax documents, e-mail letters, and research on the Net. They can rent the computers to handle word processing, spreadsheets, databases and desktop publishing. They can scan photos of their products and e-mail them.

The telecenters connect and empower the communities. They enhance information and learning opportunities. They open up markets for local products. All told, they raise incomes and lower poverty.

Farmers in certain provinces now have easy access to information vital to their marketing. Getting the latest commodity prices, they adjust their vegetable production mix.

The telecenters are not purely the fruits of state effort. Partners include international agencies, NGOs, private sector and student volunteers.

The new marketing thrust is to put Thai products on the Net. It's a natural fit: an export-oriented economy must open a window to the global market.

At the base of the Net pyramid is Siamvillage.net, which is basically a site for the village entrepreneurs. It's in the vernacular and

THAILAND/ B2-2

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Classifying real property

By Iryn S. Yap
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

THE REAL estate market has remained in the doldrums since the Asian financial crisis burst the property bubble. Unfinished land development projects, vacant offices and residential buildings stand as mute symbols of the economic downturn in Asia.

But recent news reports suggest that the property market has bottomed out, with the potential for a strong and sustained recovery in the near future.

Middle-income consumers who were previously reluctant to commit to long-term investments have started to venture into the market, snapping up houses in prime locations as well as affordable condominiums.

In this climate of a possible resurgence in the real estate industry, it is best that property sellers and buyers be reminded of the tax consequences of their transactions, and be updated on recent issuances of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) that could impact on their decision to buy.

Gains derived from sale of real properties are subject to income tax depending on whether these are capital assets or ordinary assets.

a. In the case of individual citizens, resident aliens and non-resident aliens engaged in trade or business in the Philippines

The sale of real property located in the Philippines and classified as a capital asset is subject to the 6-percent capital gains tax (CGT). The tax is based on the gross selling price/total amount of consideration or the fair market value as determined by the BIR in accordance with Section 6(E) of the Tax Code, whichever is higher, paid to the seller/owner for the sale, transfer or exchange of real property.

This is a final tax in lieu of any other income tax.

However, if the sale is made by either an individual citizen, a resident alien or a non-resident alien engaged in trade or business in the Philippines and the buyer is the Philippine government or any of its agencies or a government-owned or controlled corporation, the tax liability, at the option of the individual seller, shall be computed on the basis of either the 6-percent CGT or the graduated rates ranging from 5 percent to 32 percent, provided under Sections 24(A)(1)(c) or 25(A)(1) of the Tax Code.

The sale would also be subject to the Documentary Stamp Tax (DST) of 1.5 percent, based on the higher amount to be paid for the realty or on its fair market value (FMV), as determined by the BIR and the local transfer tax (LTT) imposed by the local government unit where the property is located.

Finally, a 10-percent Value Added Tax (VAT) may be imposed if the property is considered held primarily for sale or for lease.

Meanwhile, the sale of real property located in the Philippines and classified as an ordinary asset is subject to the expanded or creditable withholding tax (EWT) based on the gross selling price or the fair market value, whichever is higher.

Under Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 6-01, where the seller/transferor is habitually engaged in the real estate business, the following rates of EWT would apply:

With a selling price of P500,000 or less	1.5%
With a selling price of more than P500,000 but not more than P2,000,000	3%
With a selling price of more than P2,000,000	5%

On the other hand, if the seller/transferor is not habitually engaged in the real estate business, the EWT rate is 6 percent.

The same regulations provide that registration with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) or HUDCC shall be sufficient for a seller/transferor to be considered as habitually engaged in the real estate business.

If the seller/transferor is not registered with HLURB or HUDCC, he/it may prove that he/it is engaged in the real estate business by offering other evidence (for example, he/it consummated during the preceding year at least six taxable real estate transactions, regardless of amount).

Banks, however, shall not be considered habitually engaged in the real estate business, despite the number of taxable real estate transactions.

The sale is also subject to the ordinary income tax on individuals (the graduated tax rates ranging from 5 percent to 32 percent) based on the net taxable income. The EWT is creditable against the ordinary income tax due of the taxpayer.

Again, the sale would be subject to the DST and LTT and to the 10-percent VAT if the property is considered held primarily for sale or for lease.

b. In the case of non-resident aliens not engaged in trade or business in the Philippines.

The sale of real property by non-resident aliens not engaged in trade or business in the Philippines is subject to the 6-percent capital gains tax (CGT), based on the gross selling price or current fair market value, whichever is higher, as well as the DST, LTT and VAT, as applicable.]

c. In the case of domestic corporations.

The sale of lands and/or buildings located in the Philippines, which are classified as capital assets, shall be subject to the 6-percent CGT based on the gross selling price or current fair market value, whichever is higher.

The sale of land and/or buildings classified as ordinary asset and other real property (other than land and/or building treated as capital asset), regardless of classification, all of which are located in the Philippines, shall be subject to the enumerated EWT rates, ranging from 1.5 percent to 6 percent.

That the sale or transfer by a corporation of a real property other than a land or building, which are classified as capital asset is also subject to EWT, is a new rule under Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 7-03.

The gain from the sale of real property classified as ordinary assets, including lands and buildings and other real property, which is equivalent to the selling price less the cost of the asset, would also be subject to the ordinary income tax on corporations of 32 percent based on the net taxable income, or the 2-percent minimum corporate income tax (MCIT), as the case may be.

The EWT is creditable against the ordinary income tax due and/or MCIT of the taxpayer.

In case the sale of land and/or building or other real property classified as ordinary asset results in a loss, the ordinary loss from the sale may be used to offset or reduce the ordinary income of the taxpayer subject to income tax.

However, where the sale is of real property other lands and buildings, which are classified as capital assets, any capital loss from the sale of such asset, if any, will not be allowed as deduction against the ordinary income of the taxpayer.

Section 39 of the Tax Code, as amended, provides that the net capital gains subject to the 32 percent income tax means the excess of the capital gain from the sales or exchanges of capital assets over the losses from such sales or exchanges. Accordingly, capital losses are deductible only to the extent of the capital gains.

RR No. 7-03 does not discuss this limitation on the deductibility of capital losses from ordinary gains. There may be some question on whether the new rule providing for the applicability of the EWT even on sale by a domestic corporation of a real property classified as a capital asset changes the rule on the limitation on capital losses.

d. In the case of resident foreign corporations and non-resident foreign corporations

The sale by a resident foreign corporation (for instance, a branch of a foreign corporation) of real property located in the Philippines, regardless of classification, shall be subject to the provided EWT rates and the ordinary income tax at 32 percent or the 2-percent MCIT, whichever is applicable.

Similar to domestic corporations, where the sale is of a real property classified as a capital asset, any capital loss that may result from the sale is not deductible against the ordinary income of the corporation.

On the other hand, in the case of non-resident foreign corporations, the sale of real property located in the Philippines is subject to the final withholding tax of 32 percent.

If the seller is a resident of a country with which the Philippines has a double taxation agreement, there could be grounds to exempt the transaction from the income tax.

Busy lifestyle gives birth to food venture

By Anne Luisa Villarico

MOVING Feasts meals are delicious packaged food priced affordably.

TODAY'S fast-paced lifestyle has left ordinary office workers with hardly enough time to prepare their own hearty meals to bring to work.

During lunch breaks, they usually end up buying fast-food meals packed in styrofoam or in plastic pouches from a nearby rolling store.

The need for affordable yet tasty food prompted Moving Feasts to bring to the market a variety of meals of Filipino-Spanish orientation that offer a better choice compared to the usual fatty and greasy food.

Moving Feasts does not serve junk or fast foods. Rather, these are neither junk nor fast foods. Moving Feasts actually belong to the fastest growing class of food service in the United States called Home Replacement Meals.

"Today in the US, 35 percent [of the people] no longer cook their own food. Because of the growing trend, by 2020, 90 percent of the population will be doing the same thing," says Tina Yap Ong, general manager of Home Meals Kitchens Corp. (HMK), the local producer of Moving Feasts in the Philippines.

HMK pioneers in the marketing and packaging of home replacement meals in the country.

Ong says there really is no secret to the preparation of the meals.

"The meals are 'fast frozen' while still hot from the stove for reheating later in microwave ovens or steamers. Despite this they retain their original flavors and freshness," she adds.

The trays are sealed to protect the food from any degradation or decay. The food can be eaten even months after being stored in the freezer.

Among the consumer favorites according to Ong are *Paella, Arroz a la Cubana, pochero, callos* and *costilla de Adan*. Each meal tray contains a generous serving of rice.

HMK was established in April this year but Ong says the company already started testing several recipes as early as January this year. She placed the dishes in the freezer, reheated them and had them tasted by friends.

"They liked it, even if the dishes were stored in the freezer for months. They said the food tasted the same after they were reheated," Ong explains.

Ong knows about food quality as she used to manage the Mario's restaurants in Greenbelt and Ortigas and was also into the catering business.

"Delicious packaged food is what we in the company are trying to bring back to the market," she says.

The meals are priced from P50 to P80, which is affordable considering the quality.

Ong is confident that Moving Feasts will still attract its target market of mostly budget-conscious office workers despite the price.

"So far we never had complaints about the food," she claims, adding that, "no preservatives are used in the dishes and there are no processed components."

Moving Feasts invested about P2.5 million in the construction of the kitchen, which can produce 1,000 trays of food a day.

She says the group hired two seasoned chefs and four cooks to whip up the dishes.

Moving Feasts is currently sold through a few authorized merchants in the Ortigas area, but Ong says there are plans to tap the Makati crowd.

Ong says the business has done well in Ortigas and has attracted quite a following since Moving Feasts was launched in June.

She adds that because of the volume of orders, Moving Feasts plans to expand the business this year. HMK also plans to make Moving Feasts meals available to schools and homes soon.

HMK is also open to forging distribution agreements with entrepreneurs.

"Interested merchants don't have to invest, and there is no franchise-fee . . . all they need is a steamer, a microwave oven or a freezer space," she says.

HMK has its main kitchen in Bagong Ilog, Pasig City with Tel. No. 626-6251 and 672-1119 and e-mail address at <homemeals@pacific.net.ph>.

Bicol specialties go international

From page B2-1

ter they did volunteer social work for farmers and peasants.

They put up a home-based bakery in Moonwalk Las Piñas in 1991—selling the usual pandesal, pan de coco and ensaymada.

The business eventually became a rolling store—the Moonbake Breadhouse—specializing in baked goodies like chocolate crinkles, brownies and cupcakes.

Soon, they were supplying to school canteens. The demand picked up, requiring an expansion to cover the entire Metro Manila, in 1994 to 1997.

Moonbake's market reached as far as Quezon province to the south and Bataan to the north. This time, the business had to be incorporated as Moonbake Inc.

"Our business, though already a company, is more of a non-government organization which focuses more on social services among locals. I was a social worker before my husband and I ventured into the big business. It just followed because we needed a source of income for our family. But we still live by the basic philosophy of business and public service by focusing on and patronizing more local products," she claims.

Unexpected crisis

It was in 1997 that crisis struck their flourishing bakery business. The worldwide increase in sugar prices--by as much as 65 percent--affected Moonbake Inc. Prices of other raw materials soon soared. The result: heavy losses for the company. They had to sell assets and borrow from a bank to tide them over.

"My husband took stock of our resources. The bakeshop was the only business we knew. We looked around for help. One of the first decisive steps we took was to take the UP ISSI's Program for Rehabilitating Distressed Enterprises," Manrique says.

The course was an eye-opener for them. They realized that their company over-expanded.

Manrique says they adopted some cost-cutting measures and reduced the workforce for the business to be more manageable.

"From that time on, we became efficient, creative and dynamic. We enlisted our company to become a member of Philfoodex and became a regular exhibitor in various trade fairs. At the same time, we sought the help of government agencies, particularly the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Trade and Industry, in developing completely diverse product lines," she discloses.

Bicol specialties born

After diversifying their product lines through DOST's assistance, the MoonDish brand of canned delicacies was born in 1999 and laing was launched in the Asian Ethnic Food Festival.

MoonDish was soon introduced in the National Food Trade Fair, where it etched a particular niche in the market and Moonbake Inc. began to service the export market.

By 2001, the company introduced the Bicol Express in subsequent trade fairs where it enjoyed good ratings and brisk sales.

"The response of our consumers was overwhelming because they really appreciated the Bicolano dishes. It really motivated us to further soar and venture," Manrique says.

Today, Moonbake Inc. is proud to have pioneered in the production and distribution of canned traditional Bicolano dishes that have found comfortable and conspicuous spaces in the shelves of major supermarkets since 2001.

And the company does not intend to stop.

Armed with the foresight and dynamism, new and exciting products are being developed that serves wellness, quality, affordability, traditional cuisine and convenience to the growing consumers.

"We are also continuously developing competent technical staff," Manrique says.

A new plant dedicated to the thermally processed foods is also being built. The process includes the flow: from receiving the raw materials, these will go immediately to washing, peeling, slicing, grating, extracting of coconut cream, weighing, can filling, exhausting, can seaming, can washing and retorting then cooling and labeling.

Awardee

MoonDish Laing in can won the First Luzon Invention Contest-Likha Award for Outstanding Creative Research. Last year, it was nominated to the Golden Shell Rising Star award category.

To date, Moonbake Inc.'s canned product lines are Laing traditional, Laing Extra hot, Laing with Tuna Flakes, Laing with Tuna Flakes Hot and Spicy, Laing Vegetarian, Laing Vegetarian Hot and Spicy, Laing in Curry, Laing with Pork Bits, Bicol Express with Pork, Bicol Express with Tuna Flakes, Bicol Express vegetarian style, Camansi Traditional, Camansi Vegetarian, Ginataang Puso ng Saging, Ginataang Mais, Ginataang Munggo and Ginataang Halohalo.

Because of Moonbake's continuing commitment to excellence and quality products, the company maintains highly competent and dynamic management team to oversee its operation and manage its resources.

"Of course we're considering other Bicol dishes and cuisine to be included in our canned products. Perhaps, pinangat will be included in the future," she tells the INQUIRER.

(Moonbake Inc. can be reached at 801-83-20 and 805-93-03.)

MOONBAKE Inc. canned Bicol specialties which find their way to international market.

Thailand adopts 'one product . . .

From page B2-1

uses the ancient script. It's a back office for the rural firms, as they buy and sell to each other. Siamvillage.net also helps the entrepreneurs with product development and logistics systems.

The next layer is ThaiTambon.com, which supports the One Product One Village program. (The word "*tambon*" means village.) It collects information on the certified village products. It grants the seal of quality for superior products. And it offers a directory of exporters—one can look up products, firms and provinces.

The site showcases more than 21,000 products.

There are support sites for particular industries. For example, Thaigems.com showcases a vast array of the nation's exported jewelry. The pieces are displayed in the catalog. The site provides FedEx delivery, customer support and a 30-day product inspection period.

Then at the peak of the Net pyramid is Thai.com, the payment gateway to the world.

All these components come together in Thailand's mammoth export drive. *Comments to darroyo@philonline.com.*

Stay off competition, make home . . .

From page B2-8

ed number of employees. But peak seasons allow us to get contractuals."

In whichever case, however, one would pronounce their offer as 'a steal' especially because it comes with the prospect of bathing in the 'mystical' waterfalls and exploring the 100-plus 'sacred' caves of Banahaw.

On the day of this writer's visit, Herrera felt that we had to have white fluffy rice topped with black mushroom strips and garlic sautéed in olive oil, grilled tilapia fillet marinated in Japanese miso and white wine, then smothered with lily flowers in fresh tomato sauce seasoned with salted black beans, and topped with fried tofu.

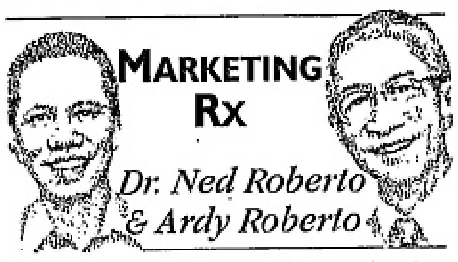
Dessert was sweet potato in syrup on a crisp wafer topped with cream and bathed in passion fruit liqueur. As digestive aids, we had fragrant pandan (screw pine) coffee and pandan tea.

For our afternoon activities, we chose to luxuriate in the kubo's nature-inspired amenities: Hot shower in an 'open enclosure' of a bathroom. Hammocks. Lambanog. A paperback up in the tree house.

This may sound like a religious testimony but this writer was stumped the very next day when he felt zero muscle pain and the fatigue associated with mountain treks like this. He may not have been able to communicate with unseen spirits or UFOs yet he never expected to get so refreshed, either. Whether it was the food or the lambanog, no one can say for certain. But he'd rather believe it is the Café's vibes or Mt. Banahaw itself, or its healing waters.(By Resty Odon)

*Contact Winston Baltasar 0917-3271106. Email: kina_cafe@yahoo.com*website: http://www.klar.us/kinabuhayan_cafe

To 'celebretics' or not to 'celebretics'?



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

IS CELEBRETICS (the art and science of using celebrity endorsers as an advertising execution strategy) worth doing as an ad execution strategy? If you consider the cost involved in hiring a celebrity, it can become a risky investment.

For Max's, hiring Piolo Pascual (whose fees, according to Cristina Garcia, co-owner of Max's, are "reasonable...and nothing compared to Sharon's") to endorse their fried chicken resulted in a spike in sales and then a steady sales growth pattern.

Our sources from Unilab, the makers of PhCare, told us that the money they spent hiring Sharon Cuneta to endorse their feminine wash was "Sulit! Worth every peso we spent."

McDonald's is reportedly very happy with their mega endorser as well, if not they would not have renewed the contract of Sharon reported to be in the P15M to P25M range. (The fees of celebrities are negotiated and are dependent on the number of TV commercials, billboards, print ads, etc. that will be used.)

Our industry sources report however that at least two products that Sharon endorsed-a handwash brand and a new corned beef brand-lost money on their investment.

As for the other products that she has endorsed-milk, sardines, bookstore, cosmetics, transport, banking, film—your guess is as good as mine. (Let's see if you can recall those products that she endorsed.)

So when is it wise to use celebritics? Here's the Marketing Rx prescription:

1. A good product with values or benefits that are priority to the consumer can do without celebretics. But if you want to achieve faster market penetration and dominance, then you can do what PhCare did.

By using product testing and research on the competition, Unilab formulated a "superior feminine wash with the correct Ph balance for daily use."

By adding Sharon to the formula (and then later on, her daughter, KC), PhCare was able to grab market share and leadership in record time. (We wrote about customer loyalty and positioning vis a vis the feminine wash wars in a previous column.)

2. You are most in need of an endorser if you have a parity product (i.e. your product has no distinguishing feature over the competition that is of value or a priority benefit to the consumer).

This is so because the perceived qualities of the celebrity (physical attractiveness, likeability, credibility, expertise) spill over to your product (some call this the "halo effect"). Notice how almost every clothing retail outlet uses celebretics?

To get some insight into this, MRx called up a top executive and co-owner of Penshoppe (now a billion peso brand).

Although the executive requested anonymity, she shared their celebretics story: "Getting celebrity endorsers has never been the focus of our (ad) campaigns. But we're up against Bench who's big (on celebretics)...and people were telling us to go the same road as them. (Bench started using Richard Gomez back in 1989-1990; now it's F4). It just happened that Sony, the record company, approached us and let us know that Mandy Moore was open to doing endorsements for us. This was right after her hit movie, A Walk to Remember.

We felt that she was a match for Penshoppe. Mandy is the opposite of say, Britney (Spears). Mandy is wholesome. We closed the deal in July and by October 2002 we launched the Mandy Moore campaign. It was so hectic. But it was worth it. (Mandy Moore's fees reportedly cost a little more than Sharon's.) ...During a time when times were hard...with SARS and all, the campaign helped sales spike and then grow until now. Penshoppe was also able to capture the 'girl market.' We're pretty happy with the results. ...But more than the endorser, it's still the brand and the merchandise."

That brings us to Marketing Rx's prescription No.3...

3. You don't need a celebrity endorser when your product is inferior. What you need to invest in is producing or bringing to market a better product.

An endorser, no matter how mega-popular, likeable, credible and attractive, can never succeed in helping a brand become a market success.

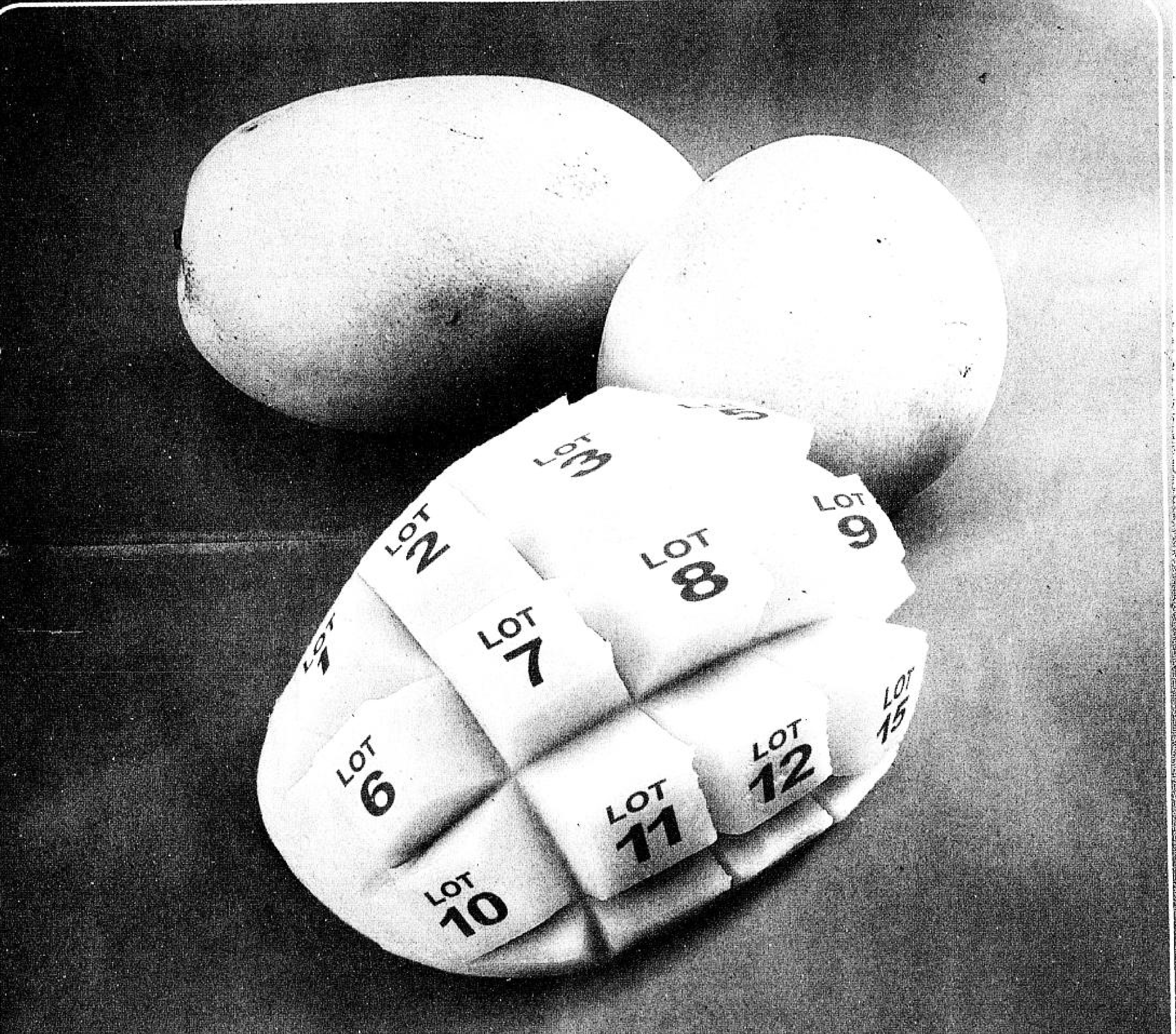
Yes, consumers will buy and try the product; but if the base P (product) of your marketing mix is of bad quality or barely satisfies the priority values of your consumers, there will be no repeat purchase.

Remember, marketing success is defined by repeat purchase and customer loyalty.

A piece of advice then to celebrities who endorse products. Be careful. The reverse can happen. Endorse an inferior product and your image is tarnished.

By the way, have you heard about the lighter fluid company that is going to approach Kris for an endorsement? How about the underwear company that is producing a new indestructible, crush-proof titanium brief designed to protect the family jewels? Joey, there's hope yet for the human race.

For questions or comments, email at MarketingRx@SaltAndLightVentures.com



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YKK PHILIPPINES, INC.

25 Years of Leadership Well-Earned

Messages

Antonio C. Laurel
Chairman
YKK Philippines, Inc.

With the superb engineering skills of our Japanese partners combined with the flexibility and local knowledge of its Filipino counterpart has brought this company where it is today. Global and local conditions have never been easy this past 25 years. But through hard work, trust in each other's strength has made what I consider one of the most successful Phil-Japan joint venture in this country.

Congratulations to the men and women who made this happen.

Tadahiro Yoshida
President
YKK Corporation

Emanating from a humble foundation with honorable intentions, YKK Philippines is proud to celebrate its 25th anniversary. For this, I am very honored to extend my sincerest congratulations to YKK Philippines and to extol the people who have made this success possible. For the support from the government and patronage of customers and suppliers as well as the efforts and teamwork of YKK Philippines' partners, management and employees, we are greatly thankful to all of you.

It is with great pride that YKK Philippines stood by the sound business philosophy and principles, thus being recognized as a model Philippine-Japan joint venture. We commend the late Ambassador Jose S. Laurel III for his vision and to the rest of the Laurel family who have sustained the mutual trust and respect even after two generations of partnership. We look forward for more fruitful years and may we continue the legacy that our fathers have begun.

I affirm my unwavering support to YKK Philippines and on behalf of the entire YKK Group, Mabuhay and More Power!

Francis C. Laurel
President & Chief Executive Officer
YKK Philippines, Inc.

On behalf of the men and women of YKK Philippines, Inc., I would like to thank all our customers, suppliers, distributors and friends for their support and cooperation during our 25 years of operation. Without them, we would not have attained this feat.

As we celebrate our silver anniversary, we are reminded that all our achievements would not have been made possible without the divine intervention of the Almighty. To Him, we offer our eternal gratitude and we continue to pray that He bless our company and shower us with His bountiful harvest.

We look forward to another 25 years of world class service to our beloved customers. Your success is our success. Together, we will attain higher levels of productivity and prosperity.

Hon. Hermilando I. Mandanas
Governor
Province of Batangas

My warmest felicitations to the Men and Women of YKK PHILIPPINES, INC. on the occasion of thier 25th Anniversary!

It is inspiring to note that YKK Philippines, which traces its humble beginnings in 1978, has continuously enhanced its competitiveness to remain as the industry leader in zipper manufacturing in the Philippines. I laud your organization for your continuous efforts to uplift the lives of the Batangueños and to provide a sustainable economic development in our beloved Province.

I ardently hope that the company continues its unflagging dynamism and I look forward to your positive contributions as we stand together towards achieving our goal of a stronger economy.

Again, our sincere congratulations to YKK Philippines, Inc. and best wishes on your silver anniversary.

Mabuhay and More Power!

Hon. Armando C. Sanchez
Mayor
Municipality of Sto. Tomas, Batangas

In behalf of the municipal government and residents of Sto. Tomas, Batangas, I am extending our heartfelt congratulations to YKK Philippines on its 25th Anniversary. To the management and employees of YKK Philippines, who have labored to make this silver anniversary a reality, I congratulate you for your dedication, commitment, patronage and loyal service to your company and our community.

It is my fervent wish that your company would continue its commendable efforts to promote community relations and foster industrial harmony. Rest assured that I would support you in all your worthwhile endeavors. I look forward in your Golden Anniversary celebration in the next 25 years.

Again, my sincere congratulations and I wish YKK Philippines, Inc. all the best.

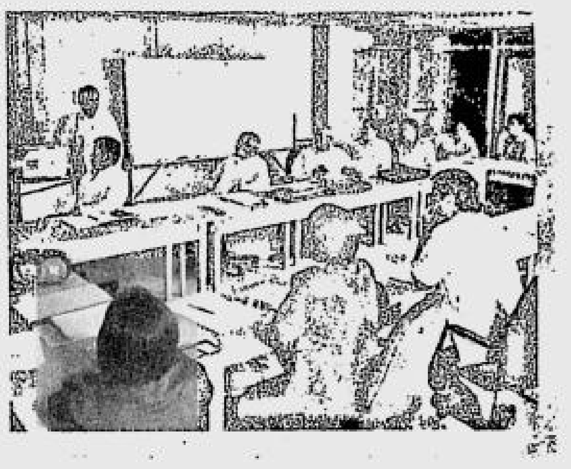
Origins of YKK

The birth of YKK Philippines is a tale, legends are made of. It involves two generations of two families, one from Japan, and the other from the Philippines, whose futures were destined to intertwine, as foreshadowed by events in their individual lives.
In 1934, a young entrepreneur, Tadao Yoshida founded Yoshida Kogyo K.K., a pioneer zipper manufacturing company in Japan.

Two years later, a young man named Jose S. Laurel III, future lawyer, ambassador and statesman, entered the rolls of the elite Japanese Imperial Military Academy as a cadet. He would be the first and only Filipino to earn the distinction of graduating from that venerable institution.

In 1970 their sons, who opted to pursue higher education in the United States, met as classmates in the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Friendship and mutual respect developed in the halls of the academe and eventually became the nurturing elements for the start of a business partnership.
The joint venture was incorporated in October 1977. Its founder, Mr. Tadao Yoshida, represented the Japanese principal, Yoshida Kogyo K.K.; while Ambassador Jose S. Laurel III, who stood as Chairman and President of the new company, led the Philippine group.

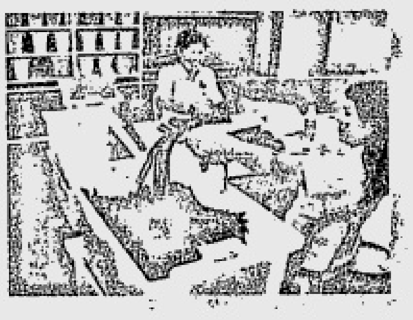
Today, the brains behind the joint venture, former classmates Francis C. Laurel and Tadahiro Yoshida, sit as President and Chief Executive Officer of YKK Philippines, Inc. and YKK Corporation, Japan, respectively.



YKK Today

When YKK started in 1978 it had one production plant, 15 employees and produced 24 million pieces of nylon slide zippers.
Today, it has four plants with a fully integrated production line, a state-of-the-art assembly involved in dyeing, slider assembly, and finishing. Combined output totals 120 million zippers annually.
Two hundred twenty three employees, with an average tenure of 11 years in the company, ensure that YKK meets its production targets and marketing objectives on time.

We've Come a Long Way!



YKK fully understands that the zippers and notion products they produce are not end-use items; rather, these are critical components that go into customers' products. Hence, the company closely supervises every step of the manufacturing process to ensure quick response, prompt delivery and the highest possible product quality at the lowest possible cost.
Its product lines cover the widest range of uses. They are found not only in apparel, bags and luggage, but also in medical accessories, car seats, interior décor, and marine applications

Slide fasteners

The classic metal zippers come in a wide range of finishes and are used for jeans and trousers.

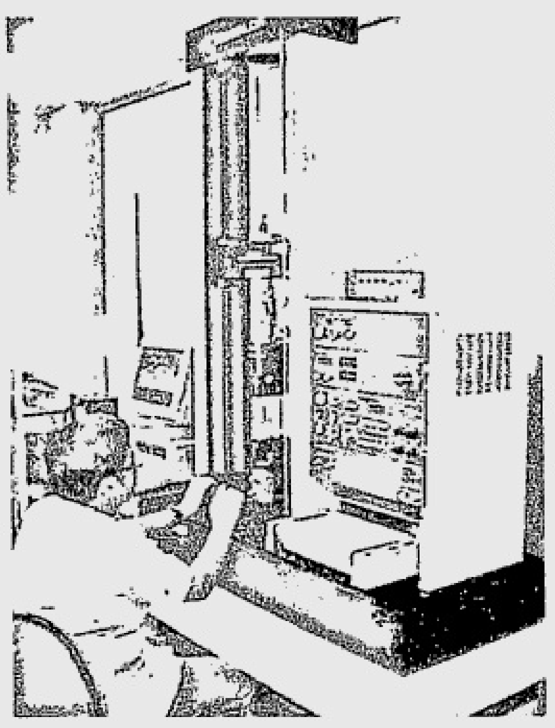
Vislon zippers made from Polyacetal resin are commonly used on jackets. Nylon zippers, because of their versatility, find use in slacks, skirts, jackets and dresses.

Snap fasteners and button products

Buttons and burrs enhance the strength and attractiveness of jeans. Snaps can be ordered with a custom logo or design and used on reversible garments.

Textile and plastic products that include hook and loop fasteners, buckles, D-rings, stoppers, cord ends and webbing tapes are found in luggage, bags, apparel, etc.

Quality in any Language



YKK Philippines has always adhered to global quality standards. It was awarded ISO 9002 in 1999 and was upgraded to ISO 9001:2000 in 2002. In mid-2001, it embarked on the ISO 14001 and was certified. These are milestones in the company's commitment to continually provide quality products and superior services to local, and international customers.

An integral part of the ISO program is the adoption of a company-wide customer-oriented total quality assurance policy that employees internalize. Pursuant to this, Management continuously introduces programs and systems designed to deliver zero-defect products and services.

Moreover, as an affiliate of YKK Corporation, YKK Philippines also observes the standards set by the conglomerate's Fastening Global Quality Management Committee (FGQMC).

This commitment to outstanding quality is the reason YKK products are used in apparel, fashion, bags, luggage and sport gear by leading global brands such as GUESS, L.L. Bean, Liz Claiborne, Calvin Klein, Dockers, Banana Republic, Delsey, Eddie Bauer, Levi's, Jansport, Esprit, Speedo, Polo, Samsonite, Lee, Marks& Spencer, Adidas, Tommy Hilfiger, OshKosh, JCPenney, Bobson, Marithe Francois Girbaud, GAP, Anne Taylor, Jag, Old Navy, Dickies, Rusty Lopez, Timberland, Mossimo, Eastpak, Bench, Habagat, Bayo, Human, Jlo, Hawk, penshoppe, and Jordache.

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Generations of Growth and Leadership

First row L-R: Morada B. Billiones Jr., Buenaventura O. Opelaño, Renato J. Aguila
Second row L-R: Irenea A. Villegas, Luzviminda P. Sayas, Nelia R. Hernandez
Third row L-R: Ester M. Evangelista, Soledad S. Pamplona, Lorenza A. Lat
Fourth row L-R: Francis C. Laurel, Jose S. Coronel, Leonor R. Banzuela

At YKK, long-term employment is the norm rather than the exception, the result of a people-oriented policy that encourages each employee to see his future in the context of the company's vision.

It recognizes human resource development in the professional as well as personal aspects as key to individual productivity. Thus, YKK continues to introduce programs designed to enhance and update employee knowledge and skills in the areas of management, human relations, and plant operations.

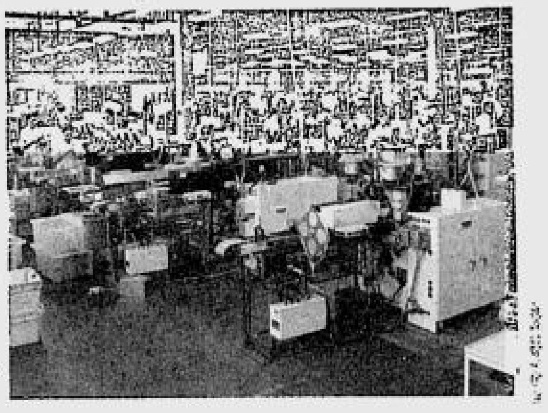
To complement all these, the company also encourages the fostering of strong company-to-community bonds through socio-civic outreach activities in the form of medical missions, academic linkages, environmental preservation advocacy, and sports.

Employees who opt to grow with the company in time become the recipient of such professional and material rewards that the company generously grants deserving staff.

Today, October 24, 2003, twelve employees and officers will receive the silver anniversary award for twenty-five years of dedicated service to the company. Most started from the ranks and eventually rose to more responsible positions. They helped YKK grow. They helped YKK become, and stay, the leader.

25 years (Pioneer) Awardees

Francis C. Laurel – President-Chief Executive Officer
Jose S. Coronel – VP-Chief Finance Officer
Leonor R. Banzuela – VP Manufacturing
Morada B. Billones – Associate Manager-Factory Administration
Renato J. Aguila – Assistant Manager-Environmental Manager Group (EMG)
Ester M. Evangelista – Distribution & Logistics Officer
Soledad S. Pamplona – Distribution & Logistics Assistant 2
Buenaventura O. Opelanio – Process Support Assistant 2
Irenea A. Villegas – QA Analyst 2
Nelia R. Hernandez – Process Support Assistant 1
Luzviminda P. Sayas – QA Analyst 1
Lorenza A. Lat – Operator 2



Main Office:
17th & 18th Floors Richville Corporate Tower
1107 Alabang-Zapote Road, Madrigal Buss. Park, Muntinlupa City
Tel. No.: (632) 807-8875 • Fax no.: (632) 807-8660
E-mail: sales@smd.ykk.com.ph

Plant:
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People, Events & Products

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Citibank's Gateway to Goodlife series 6 in full swing

IN PARTNERSHIP with the Personnel Managers Association of the Philippines (PMAP) headed by president Mon Medina and executive director Gerry Plana and Visions and Breakthrough International Inc represented by president Kim Villanueva (the official training group of the campaign), Citibank's Gateway to Goodlife went into full swing, spearheading a series of roadshows, events and activities, investing in 30 roving vans that moved around the metropolis and mobilizing an energetic sales force. The series promotes the "Living a Balanced Lifestyle and Worklife" theme through top-rating modules designed by VBI and complemented by Metro Working Mom's modules on parenting.

Great brands support the institutional campaign, headed by Rustan's Essenses, Gold's Gym, Adidas, and in cooperation with Richmonde Hotel, The Bellevue Hotel in Alabang, Discovery Suites Ortigas, Island Cove Cavite, Club Paradise and Maricaban Resort in Palawan.

The official travel partner TQ3 Travel Solution transported the lucky winners to free trips in select destinations locally and abroad.

Medicomm Pacific Inc, the publisher of medical books and health newsletters, participated in medical roadshows and shared its expertise in medical health.

Discover the secrets of a balanced worklife. Join the roadshows and learn from experts on how to achieve personal, professional, and financial fitness.

The Gateway to Goodlife was launched at the biggest fitness center, Gold's Gym. It was a powerful event with the PMAP, Citibank families and media friends, spinning, kicking and biking at their hearts' delight and enjoying the state-of-the-art equipment of Gold's Gym.

The six modules for the roadshows were unveiled: Personality and professional enrichment; personality development and corporate imaging; breakthrough coaching; managing stress and time for success; building high-performing teams, and: right attitude for a successful life.

Take the road trip with Citibank's Gateway to Goodlife series 6 and drive yourself to a well-balanced working lifestyle. Simply register your company or association for a free professional session and enjoy the fun and surprises along the way.

The PMAP Cebu Chapter had been awarded with slots for the roadshows in Cebu, which was launched separately at The Waterfront Hotel Lahug Cebu City. Close to 100 PMAP companies in Cebu will experience the roadshows.

The Gateway to Goodlife campaign is the brainchild of Citibank's AVP for media, events and alliances Gigi Rodriguez, who is also at present the Pana president and AdBoard vice chair. Her passion for strategic alliances, events and media relations gave birth to the regionally awarded Citibank's Gateway to Goodlife Campaign. A target of 1,000 roadshows/events and joint activities will be executed via the Gateway to Goodlife series 6 this year.

IAJ'S KOREAN VISIT

In-A-Jiffy Enterprises top executives recently visited the head office of Enter-Tech Company (ETC) Ltd, Korea, manufacturer of Magic Sing Videoke Microphones. IAJ executives were the first foreign business partners to be given a tour of ETC's new headquarters. IAJ is the largest distributor of Magic Sing Videoke Microphones in the country, with over 200 dealer-outlets nationwide. Shown, from left, are Young I. Kim, managing director of Kumyoung Corp, SH Kim, treasurer of ETC, Cris Llamo, IAJ COO, and daughter Abbey, Andres Sanchez, IAJ president, Linda Sanchez, IAJ CFO, Olive Sanchez, IAJ VP sales and marketing and GM, and KH Lee, ETC president.

First Life launches photography contest

FIRST Life adheres to its organizational philosophy of "Creativity and Innovation" with its photography contest Life Values 1st launched recently. With the joint participation of Canon Marketing (Philippines) Inc and the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc (FPPF), the contest is open to all amateur and professional photographers based in Metro Manila. Photographs should carry the theme "Filipino values and how life insurance is fundamental to keeping these intact for the next generations to come."

Open to amateur and professional photographers based in Manila, contestants have the chance to win the top prize of P20,000 cash, a trophy and a Canon EOS 66 QD camera and other prizes. Winning entries will be exhibited at the Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati after the contest period. Entries with duly accomplished registration form (available in First Life Metro Manila branch offices or downloadable from www.firstlife.com.ph) may be submitted at the First Life head office in Makati until Oct. 24. For more information about Life Values 1st, log on its website.

First Life is the local pooling network partner of Swiss Life and Pension Co, the world's leading employee benefits network, and the international partner of the Dai-Ichi Mutual Life Insurance Company of Japan, the second largest life insurance company in the world.

TAIPAN DONATES FRIENDSHIP GATE

Taipan Lucio C. Tan, wife Carmen and daughter Irene (4th, 5th and 6th from left) are joined by officers of Huaqiao University in Xiamen, China, during the inauguration of the Chinese Language and Culture Center's new main gate. The P3-million friendship gate is the taipan's donation to the center that is celebrating its 50th year. Known for his educational philanthropy in the Asia-Pacific region, Tan is also in southern China to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Allied Commercial Bank-Xiamen. He is joined by members of his family, friends, and a big business delegation composed of almost 200 officers and members of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCII).

CNDR RESPONDS THROUGH TABANG MINDANAW

The Corporate Network for Disaster Response (CNDR) president, Alberto Lim hands over its donation to ambassador Howard Dee, co-chair of Tabang Mindanaw to support its supplemental feeding program for displaced children of the armed conflict in Mindanao. CNDR joined Task Force Tabang Mindanawin 1998 representing the corporate sector.

ProductFILES

Superbowl's tasty mooncakes

IT'S THE season for these round-shaped goodies made from lotus seed paste, served in various kinds, colors and flavors. For 800 years, these Chinese-inspired desserts have traveled far for the world to appreciate. It's the season for mooncake, so those who crave for these yummy treats, better go mooncake-shopping now.

The traditionally made salty sweet mooncakes now come in a wide variety of flavors. Aside from the classic egg yolk fillings, there are red bean or black mongo, dates and mixed nuts, ube (yam), ham and sausages and countless fillings to choose from. Where can you find the perfect mooncakes? Of course there is the popular Binondo.

But if you want to spare yourself from the mad rush, check out Superbowl of China with branches in Festival Mall in Alabang, Glorietta 4, Jupiter Street in Makati, and Megamall. It also has an outlet in Greenbelt named Big Buddha. Superbowl of China's mooncakes are freshly baked using the finest ingredients that carry the timeless salty-sweet taste of mooncakes. Superbowl's mooncakes come in two flavors-Lotus Cream and Ube with Nuts.

The mooncakes can be purchased per box or per piece from any of the Superbowl branches and Big Buddha.

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE QC '79 SILVER JUBILEE

The Class of 1979 of the high school department of St. Mary's College of Quezon City celebrates its silver jubilee titled "The Last of the Seventies-Saturday Night, the Fever is On!" in July 2004. Members of the Marian Class of 1979 are enjoined to call Agnes Zapanta-Bengco at 427-2771 or 0917-5305170 or Joy Cirineo at 628-0575 or 0917-5311984. Shown are members of batch '79 during a recent organizational meeting in preparation for the jubilee.

RC HONORS CASTRO

Cesar 'Bobby' D. Castro, a telecommunications and IT consultant who heads his own consulting firm CD Castro Consultancy Inc, was recently named the most outstanding Rotarian by his club, the Rotary Club of Makati-Legazpi, for the Rotary year 2002-2003. Castro was president of the Club during Rotary year 1998-1999. He also represents MCI in the Philippines. He was honored during the club's 14th Charter Anniversary and Induction Ceremonies held recently at the Grand Ballroom of Mandarin Oriental Hotel. He received the award from the new RC Makati-Legazpi president Imelda 'Elda' Dizon, finance executive of Energizer Philippines Inc (left) and District 3830 assistant governor, former president of RC Makati-Legazpi and a senior executive of Air Philippines Inc Patria 'Patty' Chiong.

M-TECH OPENS AS A HOSPITAL

In celebration of its 3rd anniversary M-Tech Medical Diagnostic and Therapeutic Center is now open as a hospital. It is located at 379 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. The blessing was officiated by Fr. Rodolfo San Pedro, rector of Don Bosco Tondo assisted by Dr. Angelita Reyes.

Bits & Clips

PRSP calls for Anvil entries

THE PUBLIC Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) invites entries for the 39th Anvil Awards, following its announcement in the recently held PRSP Congress. The Anvil Awards is an annual event that that it is now dubbed the "Oscar" of Public Relations. The competition is conducted annually to recognize outstanding public relations programs or projects clearly identified with public interest and have a lasting impact and value. The two main categories are Institutional and Corporate PR Programs and Tools of Public Relations. There are also four award categories: The Anvil Awards of Merit, the Anvil Awards of Excellence, the Bronze Anvil Award and the Grand Anvil Award. All entries or nominations must be in not later than Oct. 31 or post-marked not later than Oct. 25. For more information, call the PRSP secretariat at 848-0260 to 61.

Home Theater exhibit

SYSTEM providers and suppliers enjoy additional perks in the first Philippine Home Theater Experience exhibit as marketing, information technology and interior design teams join hands with the organizers, Meeting Points International (MPI). The collaboration elevates the high-profile event into a definitive exhibit of home theater and entertainment systems in the country. MPI recently signed up with Interspec to produce an integrated interactive information source equipped with a specially designed search map facility. Event visitors can avail themselves of the electronic listing of exhibitors. The event's official interior design group is Urbane Loft Inc. The first Philippine Home Theater Experience exhibit will be held from Oct. 23 to 25 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati. For more details, call MPI at 895-5735 and 895-2363.

Claret '78 homecoming

THE CLARET School of Quezon City batch '78 Silver Jubilarians will host the school's grand alumni homecoming from Oct. 24 to 26 at the Claret School grounds in UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City. Claret School, one of the premier schools in Quezon City, is run by the Claretian Missionary Fathers. For details, call Carlyzar S. Divinagracia, executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association Inc at 438-4281, Renato Doctor, Lowell Allarde, and Patrick and Merrick Malinis.

'Good to Great' seminars set

WHAT are the universal distinguishing characteristics that cause a company to go from good to great? To know the answers, sign up for "Good to Great", a seminar based on the best-selling book by Jim Collins. In the book, Collins analyzes and identifies the set of elite companies that have made the leap to great results and sustained those results for 15 years. Franco del Rosario, seminar speaker, will expound on the book's practical application to Philippine business. Del Rosario is chair of the 2003 Management Association of the Philippines CEO Conference, and is a certified Dale Carnegie instructor. The "Good to Great" half-day seminars are scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, on Nov. 5 and 12 at the Bellevue Hotel, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang and on Nov. 6 and 13 at Acceed (AIM Conference Center), JVR Professional Development Center, Legaspi Village, Makati. For information and registration, call 850-5870 or 850-5871, or 0917 - 5374435, fax 809-8074 or e-mail sixsigma@itextron.com. "Good to Great" is presented by Six Sigma Corp. in cooperation with The Bellevue, Manila; the Management Association of the Philippines, and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Firm brings videoke craze to RP homes

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

OLIVE Sanchez with the popular Magic Sing microphone

COMBINING the latest in videoke technology and the Filipinos' love for singing, it should be easy to sell the Korean-manufactured Magic Sing videoke microphone to the market.

In-A-Jiffy Enterprises thought so.

Thus, it decided in 1999 to acquire the exclusive distribution rights for EnterTech Co. Ltd.'s Magic Sing videoke microphone, which combines the portability of a microphone with the functions of a videoke player.

In-A-Jiffy's general manager Olive Sanchez, however, quickly realized that it takes more than just tapping the Filipinos' love for singing to push the sales of Magic Sing videoke microphone.

Sanchez says the initial problem was the price, which was P16,000 for one microphone loaded with a chip with 790 songs. The market found it too expensive, which was why it was difficult for the first distributor to meet the monthly sales quota of 1,000 units.

"At first we sold the Magic Sing through direct sales where our sales people sold the microphones wholesale. Then we targeted resorts and restaurants because they could use the Magic Sing videoke microphone for their entertainment needs," Sanchez explains.

Sanchez says the company did not immediately target the households because of the price. It was only years later when the management realized that it was actually the households that were buying the Magic Sing videoke microphone for their private entertainment.

"It also helped that we lowered the selling price to about P11,000 now so our volume sales have been increasing," she says.

Sales have gone up considerably last year that the Philippines has become the second biggest market for the Magic Sing videoke microphone after Japan.

It also helped that from direct sales, In-A-Jiffy started tapping the retail distributors such as record bars.

Magic Sing is now available in over 200 outlets nationwide.

Sanchez adds that In-A-Jiffy also had to educate the market about the uses of Magic Sing considering it was a new product.

"People did not immediately realize the value of the microphone so we had to demonstrate its uses," Sanchez says.

Magic Sing's first exposure was in 2001 when In-A-Jiffy rented a booth at the old Greenbelt mall.

Once the market got the hang of the Magic Sing videoke microphone, Filipinos quickly embraced it, especially the Overseas Filipino Workers and balikbayan market.

She adds that the direct selling mode continues, and flight attendants make a good living out of selling the Magic Sing videoke microphone.

"We are offering it as a business opportunity where they get the wholesale price for every purchase of five Magic Sing videoke microphones," she says.

Sanchez says In-A-Jiffy is currently strengthening its brand to protect its market against counterfeiters.

She adds that the company is also investing in the development of more chips that contain popular Filipino songs.

The Tagalog chips are the most popular among those sold in the market, even more than the English ones. Other foreign language chips such as Japanese and Chinese are also available, along with Christian song chips.

"We found that most of our buyers are males and that there are also foreigners buying here in the Philippines because of our competitive price," she says.

In-A-Jiffy, she stresses, would continue to put out Filipino chips, which also includes songs in Ilocano and in the Visayan languages, to help preserve these songs and promote Filipino culture.

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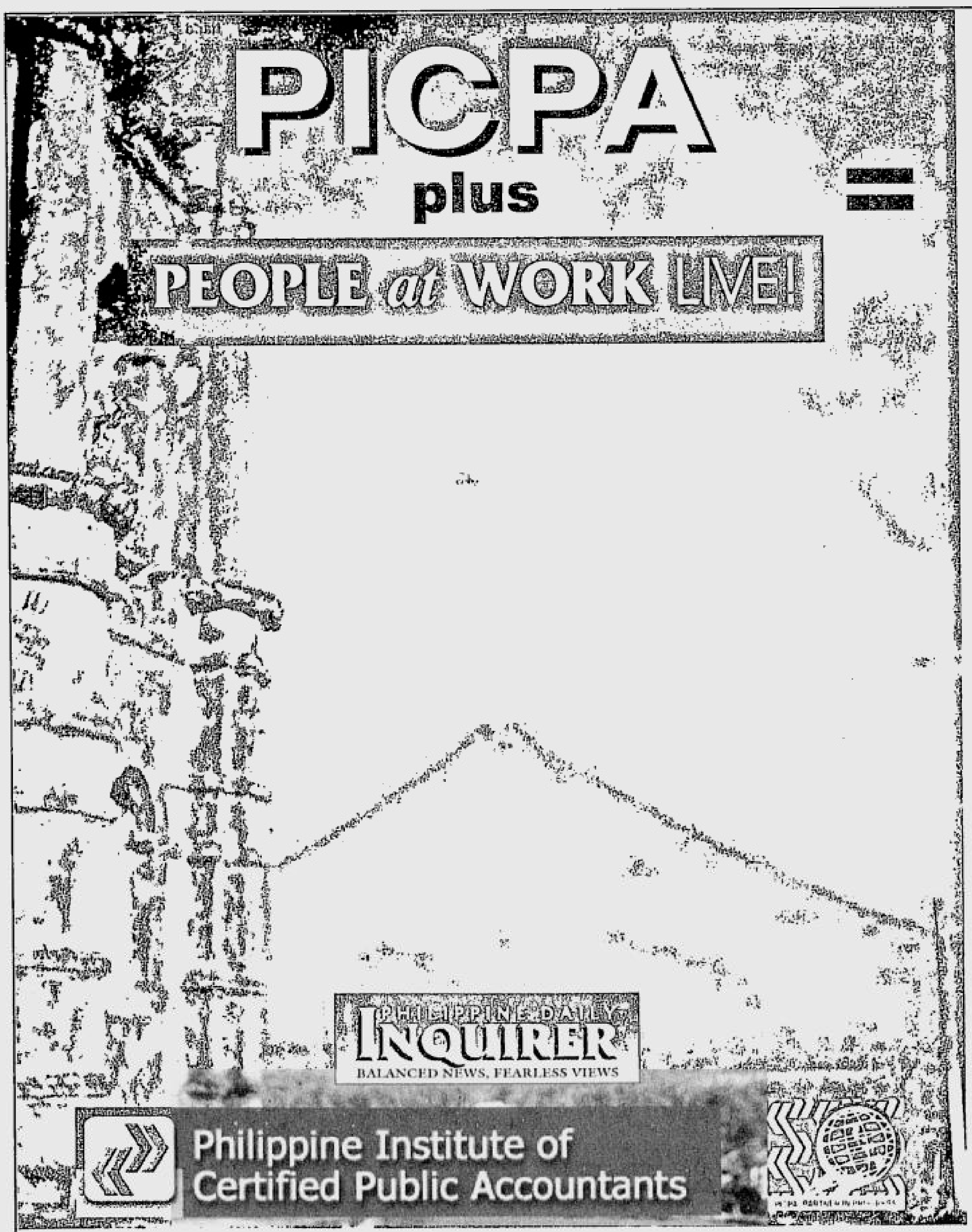
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BUSINESS *Friday*

Stay off competition, make home your venture's site

RESORT is not the right word to describe the place as it does away with air conditioning and other urban amenities.

PEOPLE often mistake Banahaw for Banawe when the two are distinctly different. Banahaw is an easy drive from Manila while Banawe is more than a half day away to reach.

A visit to Kinabuhayan Café, a one-of-a-kind bed-'n-breakfast "at the foothills of Mt. Banahaw" makes it doubly worth the 1.5-hour weekend trip out of the big city.

Kinabuhayan Café is a dream project of freelance writer-entrepreneur Winston Baltasar and his long-time friend and business partner Jay Herrera. Together they comprise Eco_Trip, Inc. They are an eco-tripping outfit that puts into good use Baltasar's marketing skills and Herrera's former job as a production designer for both TV and the movies. Herrera is the name behind some well-known GMA-7 shows and popular movies, while Baltasar was a corporate man, a CFO with an IT background.

Situated in the middle of Dolores town in Quezon, the café is a pleasant surprise in the middle of the unassuming side of Southern Tagalog. It can easily lay claim to be a haven for writers, artists, and kindred souls, with Herrera lending most of the creative energy.

In describing their project, Baltasar hesitates to use the word 'resort' because, he explains, potential tourists would then be asking for air-conditioning and other such urban amenities, which are all anathema to the whole concept. (In lieu of aircons are open-air kubos and beds with white "*kulambo.*")

Kinabuhayan Café is named after the barangay where the main entry point to the mountain is situated. Easily accessible by private or public transport, the café also serves as a jump-off point for a guided tour of the area, which Eco_Trip, Inc. inevitably offers in a neat package.

Other than the absence of competition in the area, there are a lot of things that make this establishment unique. One, Herrera the part-owner, designer, and chef himself lives here. So you are sure to be treated with his personal touch.

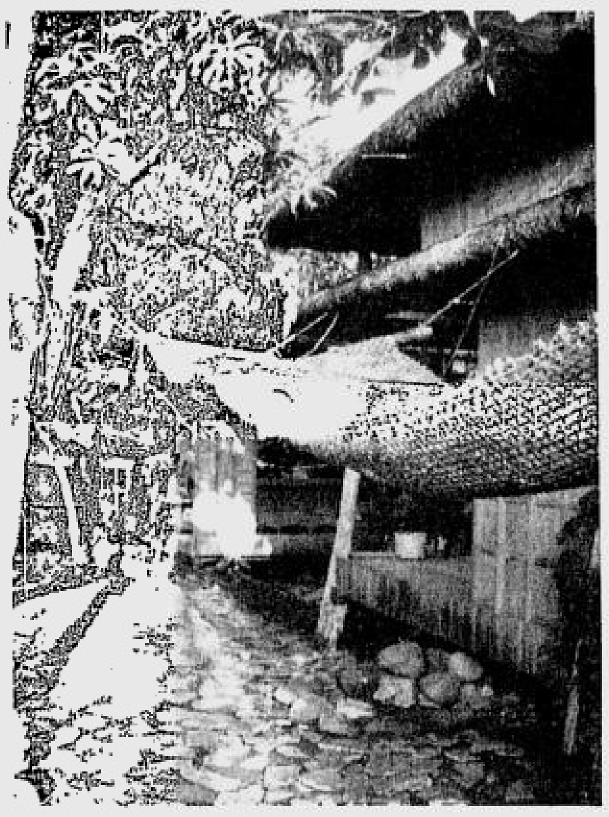
Upon arrival the visitor is greeted with freshly brewed kapeng *barako* (Quezon blend).

Immediately the aura of the place grabs you in a subtle yet distinct manner. Tree houses perched on an old sampaloc tree. Piped-in New Age music. Bits and pieces of Herrera's ancestral home. Found objects and objets d'art mixed and matched or positioned in unconventional manner. Herrera has a little story to tell about each object.

According to Baltasar, their business idea was borne of a "macro look: People eat no matter what, so why not put up a restaurant?" What's more, if you want to stay away from the competition, why not try home (i.e., Quezon)?"

And because Herrera's family has lived there for generations, they know the place like the back of their hands, economics-wise or otherwise. Best of all, this means "rent wouldn't be an issue!"

It's not as if Kinabuhayan Café would need to pull out all stops just to be able to capture a consistent slice of the eco-tourism pie. "The traffic is already there," Baltasar himself recognizes the assuring hordes of pilgrims trekking to Mt. Banahaw, peak season (summer) or off-season.



AN ex-corporate man and writer teams up with a former production designer to set up a bed and breakfast place that is one of a kind. The site is home of one partner so "rent wouldn't be an issue!"

"We're not here just to earn," Baltasar maintains. "We won't sell products from endangered species. We'll never sell crystals plundered from the caves."

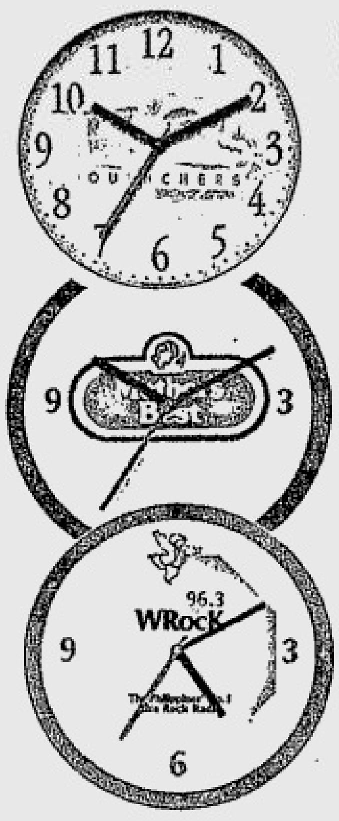
As an added come-on they also have a tai-chi master from China who drops by occasionally to give lessons.

The entire establishment is only about 75 percent complete, but as it is, it works—what with that rough-hewn effect and all. Herrera and Baltasar plan to build two more huts plus a system of little streams and fishpond in addition to the little cascade beside the café. The water in this cascade-and-stream system is recyclable.

Furthermore, as homespun charm goes and in keeping with the spirit of bucolic simplicity, the rates are kept to minimum levels. For this reason, they only accept pre-bookings and refuse any walk-ins. You have to understand the economics of it: Fish and meats, for instance, had to be marinated a day before. (Cancelled reservations would mean huge losses.) Adhering to the virtues of just-in-time, Baltasar explains further that a low inventory is what actually keeps the prices down.

Concomitantly, there's the matter of being able to hire the services of locals. "By its very nature the Café can only hire a limit-

STAY/ B2-2



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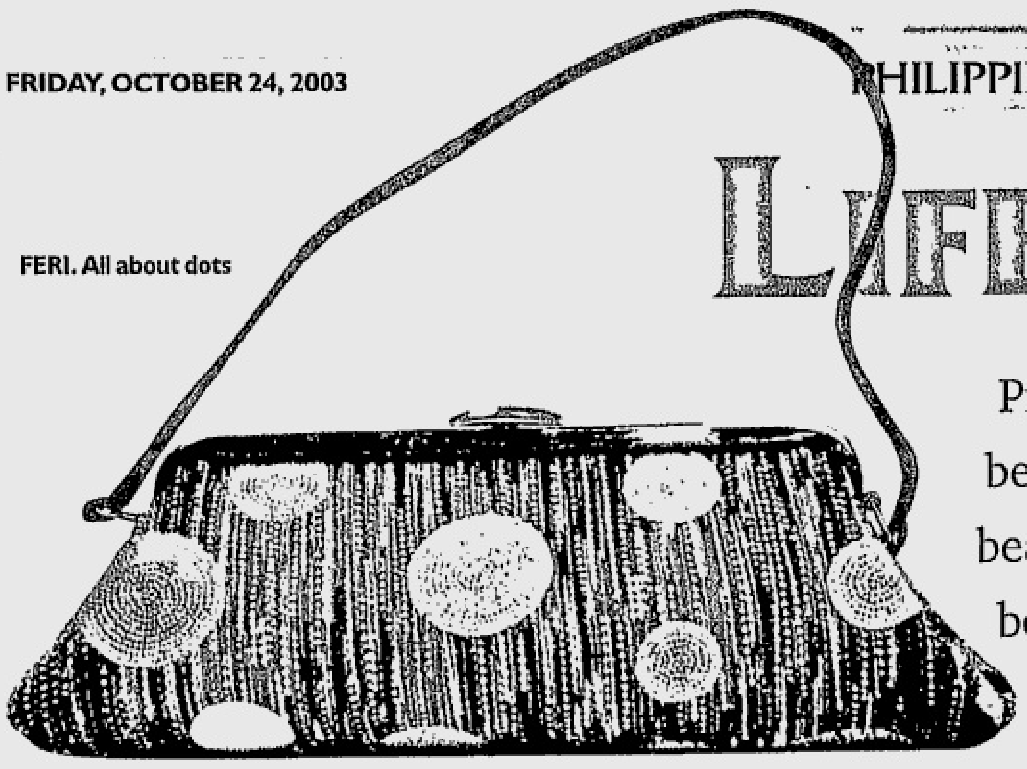


FERI. All about dots

Proud Mary designs beautiful, hand-sewn beaded bags that have become a hit among Manila's power women

CAROLINE. Blue floral

PHOTOS BY TOOTOOS LEYESA

Bag ladies keep on turnin'

By Cathy Babao Guballa
Contributor

JUDITH Ngo, Muriel Sy, Melda Tan and Angela Lee are four friends who make up Proud Mary, a bag company that designs beautiful, hand-sewn beaded bags that are the pride and joy of Manila's ladies who lunch.

Think Imelda Cojuangco, Imee and Irene Marcos, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Gina de Venecia, Lucy Torres, Ces Drilon, Menchu Concepcion and Josephine Knox. These are only a few of Proud Mary's elite clientele who happily tote around their bags to lunches, cocktails and dinners around town.

Transition

"Proud Mary," a song popularized by Tina Turner, talks about a woman in transition, possibly at mid-life, who has gotten tired of her profession, eager to make a career shift or a big change in life.

"Aside from being avid bag-lovers, we found ourselves in that situation sometime in late 2000," Judith Ngo says.

The four women and long-time family friends have been passionate about bags and accessories since childhood. Muriel and Melda, who design most of the bags, are sisters.

"We have no designing background and all of us continue to work for the family business," shares Muriel.

In April last year, they opened a showroom in Mandaluyong, and the business has grown since then largely through word of mouth.

"Gina de Venecia and Imelda Cojuangco are two of our biggest endorsers," Judith smiles.

The bags are now exported in limited quantity to Los Angeles, New York, New Orleans and London.

"The biggest joy for us is seeing people using our bags and knowing that they are happy with them," Judith says.

Painstaking

Muriel gets her inspiration for the designs from magazines and travels overseas. The bags are made of various fabrics—silk, satin, cotton, denim—and each is painstakingly hand-sewn with beads from Japan.

"The color and quality of Japanese beads are consistent and superior to other types," Muriel says.

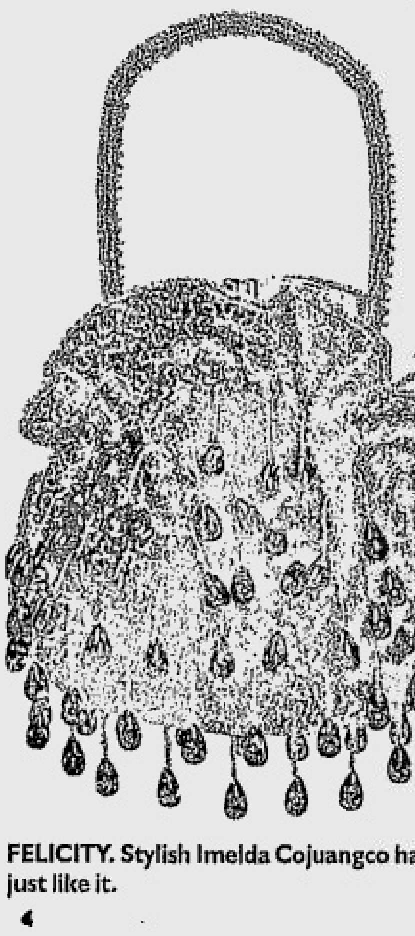
The bags' frames, handles and clasps are sourced mainly from Hongkong, Japan, the United States and some locally.

A semi-beaded bag takes three days to produce, while a fully beaded one is in production for five to six days.

"Each bag comes with a six-month warranty," Judith says. Meaning, you can take your bag back to Proud Mary for minor repairs, when needed.

The price range, depending on the style, fabric and beading, ranges from a low of P3,000 to a high of P6,000-plus. The bags are quickly snapped up by a steadily growing number of clients.

BAG/ C3



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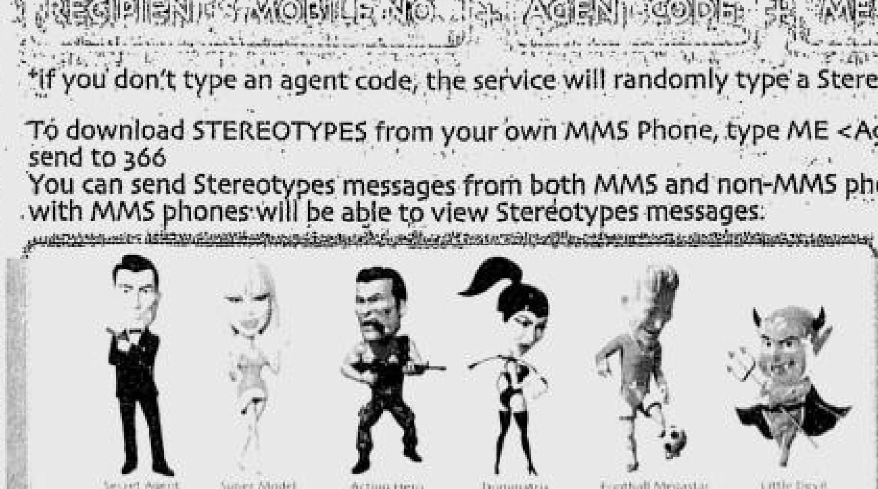

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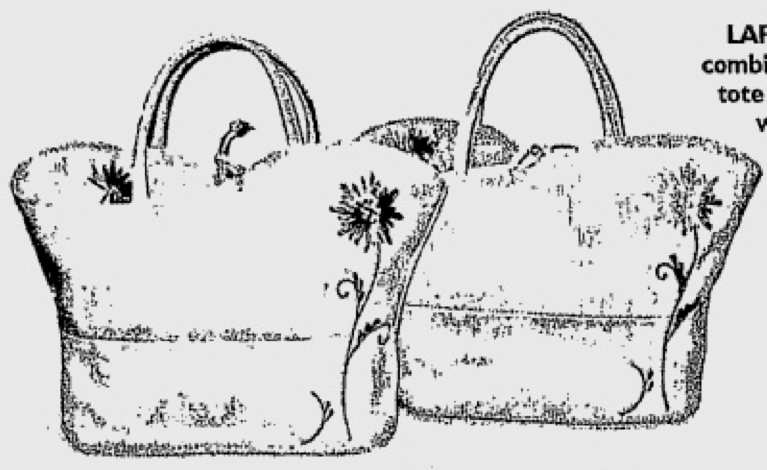
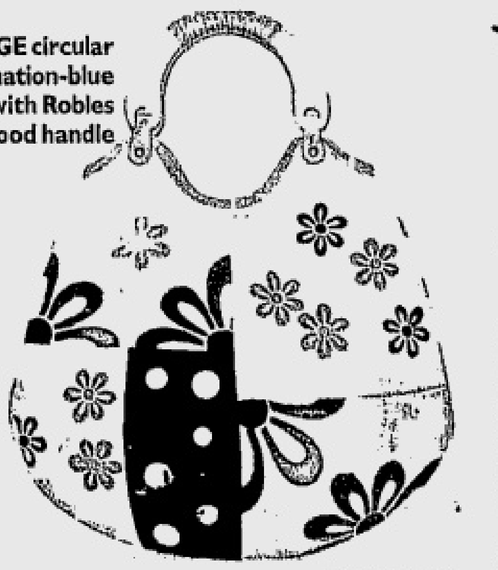
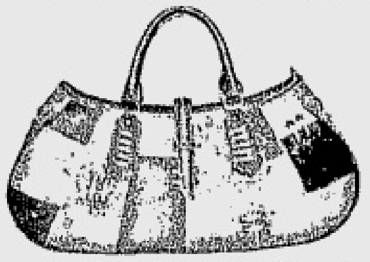
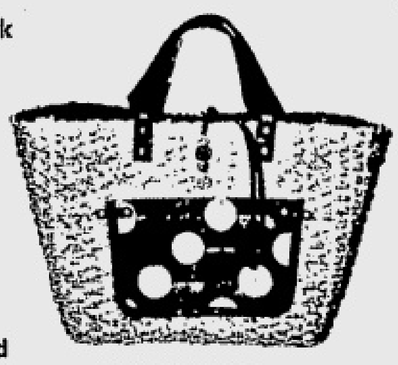
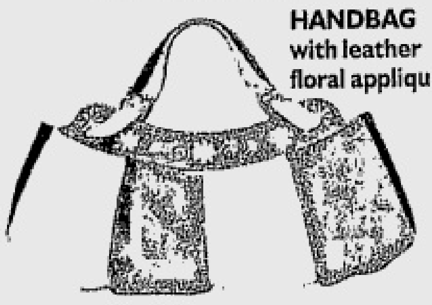

SCALLOPED tote in lilac and dusty pink and blue and turquoise combinations


LARGE circular combination-blue tote with Robles wood handle


BOAT-SHAPED carry-all in leather and suede patchwork with lemon stitching


TOTE in abaca


HANDBAG with leather floral appliques

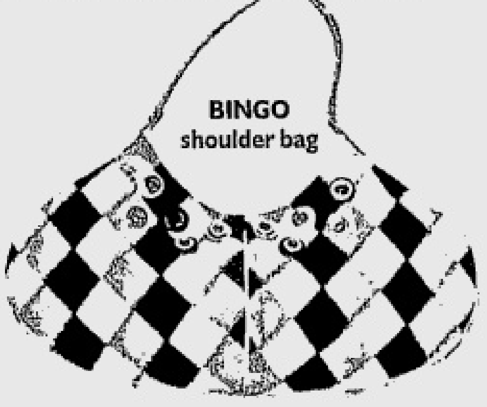
PICTURE a local bag company going mano a mano with the Fendi baguette or an Hermes Birkin bag, its handbags as desirable among fashionistas for its design theatrics and immaculate quality as these current style must-haves.

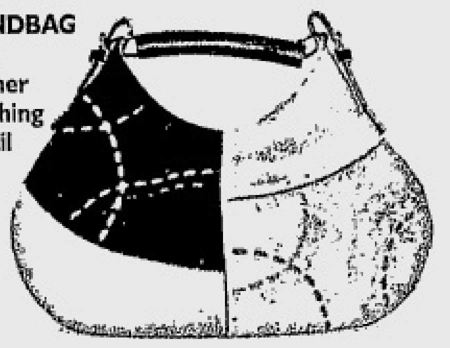
Filipinas Alfa Co. Inc. has made inroads in upmarket leather goods with its offbeat mixes of varieties of leather, and its inventive combinations of leather with indigenous materials such as jute, abaca, ferns and sea grasses.

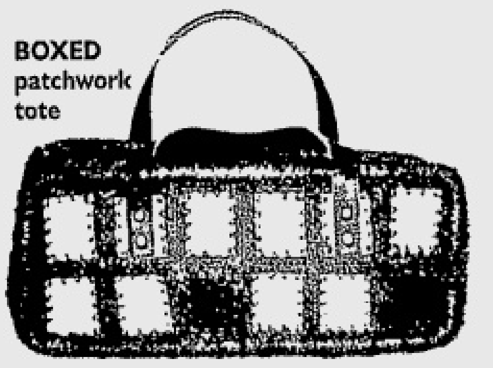
Its handbags, shoulder bags and totes come in sensual shapes and contrast blockings, with witty details like colorful leather patches, cutouts and stitching.

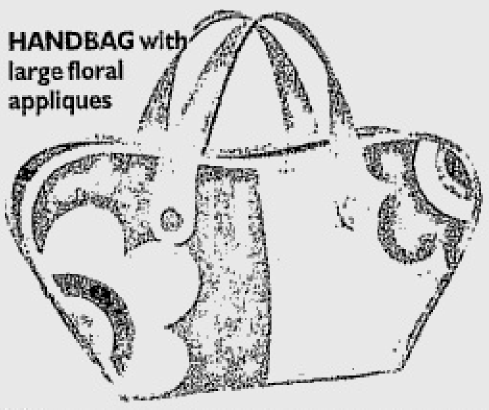
Its edge in design and workmanship is evident in its Spring-Summer 2004 collection on exhibit at the Citem Manila Fame international buyers' show at the Philippine Trade and Training Center (PTTC) until Oct. 26.

In six collections showcasing 25 styles, Filipinas Alfa showed the range of possibilities open to leather and indigenous materials, crafting bags that delight the eye with jolts of color, textural contrasts and fun, startling shapes.


BINGO shoulder bag


HANDBAG with leather stitching detail


BOXED patchwork tote


HANDBAG with large floral appliques

Mid- to high-end

Filipinas Alfa started operations in 1997 as a manufacturing affiliate of a Japanese company making leather gloves and accessories. To maximize manufacturing capability, Filipinas Alfa was set up to supply bags and leathergoods to the mid- to high-end international market.

Utilizing advanced Japanese technology, top-quality materials (its leathers are sourced from the same suppliers of Hermes, Gucci, Bottega Veneta and Coach) and the ingenuity of Filipino designers, the company came up with fashionable collections of bags and leather goods that were up-to-date with international trends and notable for striking design details.

But even with its sophisticated production technologies, part of Filipinas Alfa's appeal lies in what made Filipino design internationally bankable in the first place—traditional handcrafting.

"That, to my mind, is an important component of our business, as well as the continued vibrance of the Filipino export accessories industry," says Jocelyn Ventocilla, president of Filipinas Alfa Co. Inc. "Our bags retain an artisanal appeal that is attractive to foreign markets. We cultivate a pool of Filipino craftsmen to give our bags that handmade quality, trained by our Japanese technicians. With global design and Filipino craftsmanship, we double our edge in the international market."

Filipinas Alfa enjoys licenses from well-known international retailers such as Talbots and Dillards and the sports accessories giant Rawlings (best known as makers of baseball goods). Its bags are prominently carried by a store in fashionable Osaka, and have even appeared in a number of Hollywood movies.

Trending resources

Like any successful export company, Filipinas Alfa is dedicated to constant product development. Its in-house designer is plied with trending resources from the major fashion capitals and, together with Ventocilla, goes on regular merchandising trips overseas.

The company is developing bags of handmade paper—not the paper from recycled materials common in arts and crafts stores, but a special, Japanese-developed technology utilizing fine pineapple and banana fibers, one that could withstand considerable weight and dampness.

It is also working with Citem consultant Naomi Filmer, a British lifestyle designer who has collaborated with Alexander McQueen and Hussein Chalayan, for a collection of urban bags (which she calls "sloppy bags") with soft, biomorphic shapes and leather mixes.

HANDBAG of woven abaca

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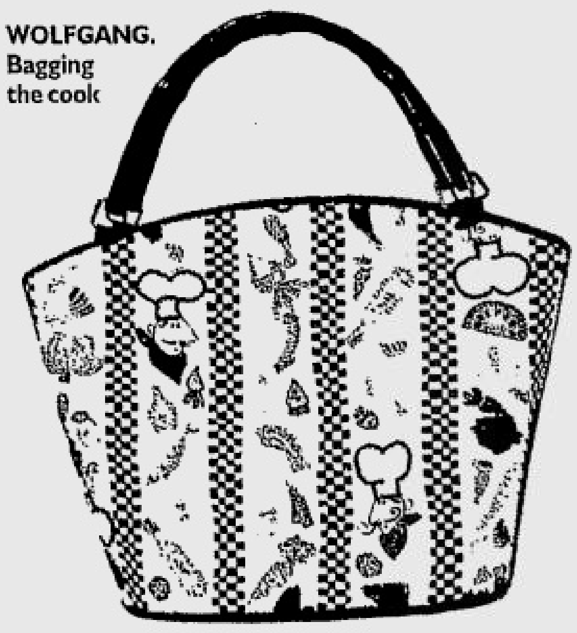
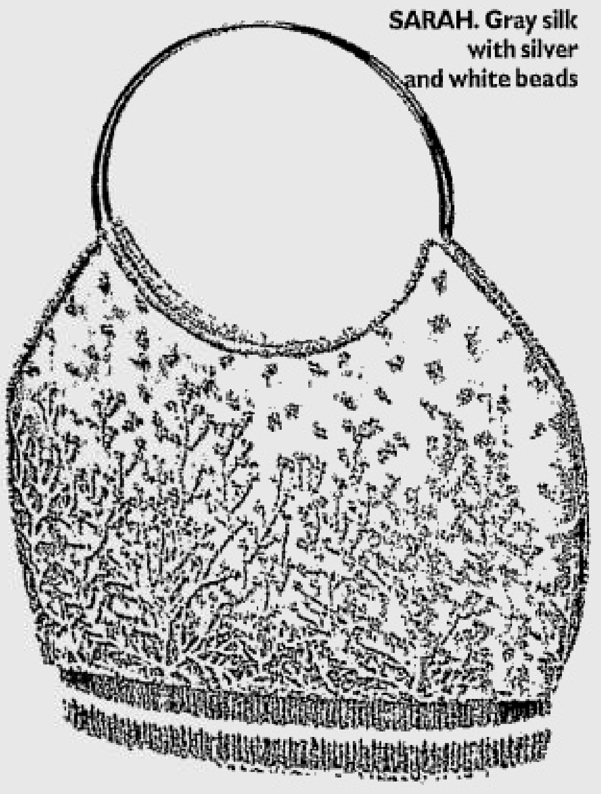


WOLFGANG. Bagging the cook

ANGELA Lee, Muriel Sy, Judith Ngo and Melda Tan



SARAH. Gray silk with silver and white beads

Bag ladies keep on turnin'

From page C1

There are different collections, inspired, among others, by dogs, cats, fish, flowers, movie stars (Elvis, Marilyn Monroe, Audrey Hepburn), tropical plants and flowers, Oriental, and even cars.

"We only make a maximum of 10-12 pieces per design," Judith says.

And if you're a loyal client, Proud Mary can even custom-make one for you or, better yet, name a bag in your honor.

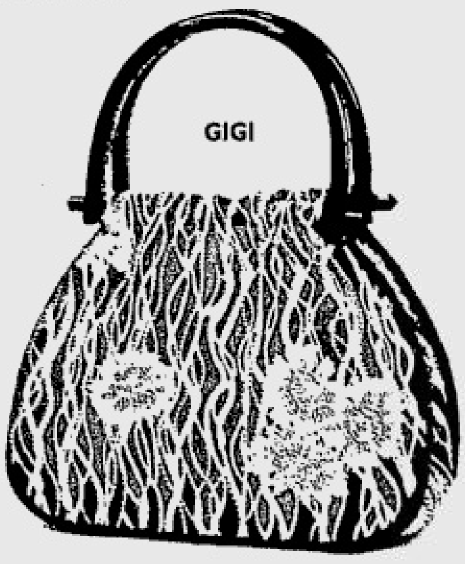
There is a Blooming Imelda for Imelda Cojuangco, an ocean-inspired Tessa bag for Tessa Prieto-Valdes and a Gina bag for Gina de Venecia.

Proud Mary bags are attractive, very colorful and well-constructed. Like eye candy, each is a visual treat.

"It also takes a certain kind of personality to carry the bag well," Muriel and Judith say.

Indeed, as proven by the many power women on their client list, the bags are carried best by self-assured ladies who take pride in who they are and what they do.

Proud Mary's showroom is at the 6th floor, Elco building, 202 E.Rodriguez Sr. Blvd, QC (beside De los Santos Hospital). Call 4134221 or 4134219.



GIGI

Interactive exhibits feature new phones

CONSUMERS can check the latest Sony Ericsson phone models and accessories in interactive exhibits at Greenbelt 3 and SM Megamall this month.

The ongoing Coffee Festival, organized by the National Coffee Development Board, features the Sony Ericsson Best Blends Interactive Exhibit at Greenbelt 3 until Oct. 26.

Sony Ericsson blends together imaging, entertainment and gaming features with new phones such as the user-friendly MMS phone T230 with its five-way navigation key, and the clamshell-designed Z200 and Z600, which both feature ultrafashionable and exchangeable Style Up covers.

In addition to its sleek design, the Z600 also sports a built-in camera, a 65K screen and QuickShare, which allows users to take photos and send images via MMS, e-mail, Bluetooth and infrared in just a few clicks.

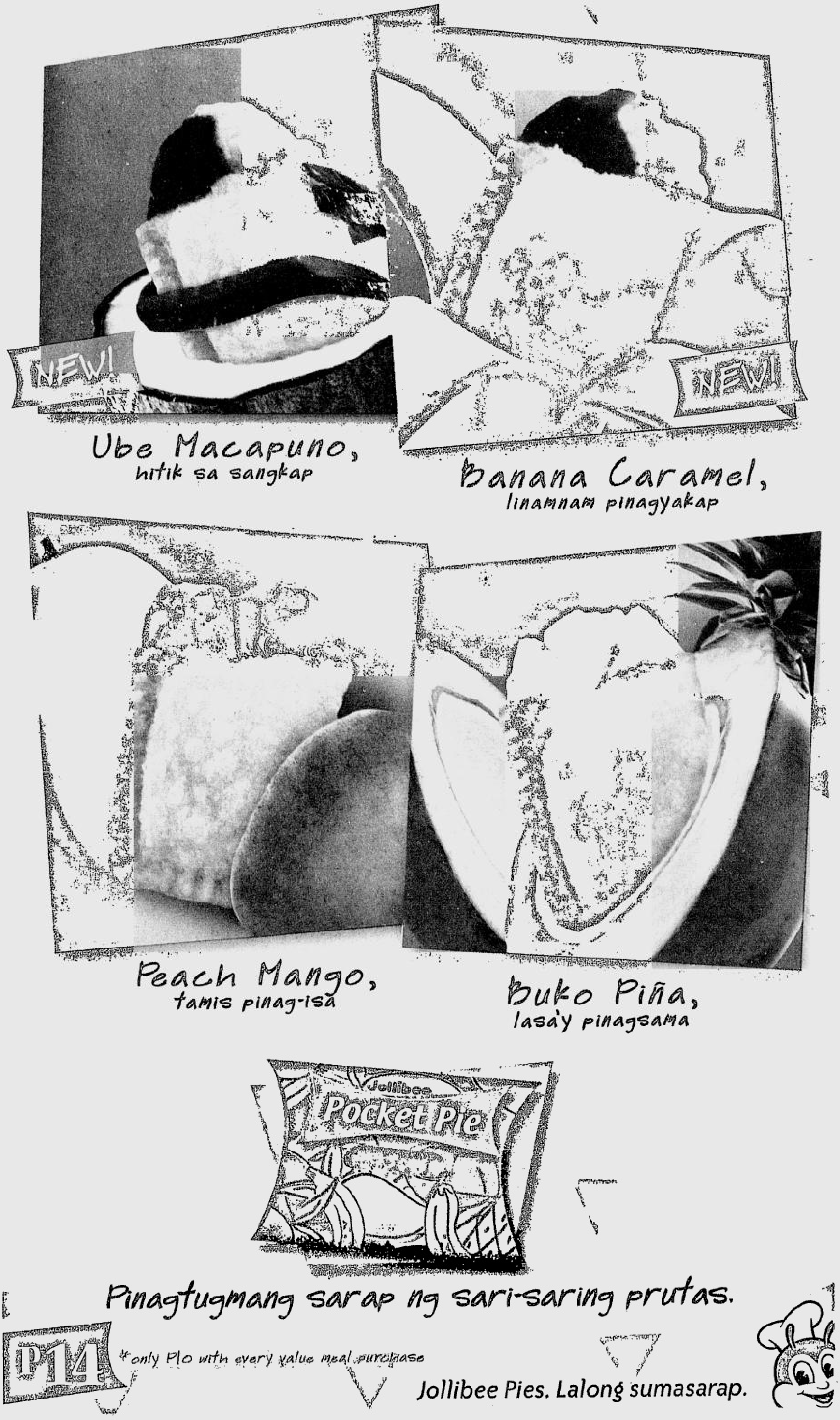
The Sony Ericsson Gameboard EGB-10 is an innovative attachable game controller especially designed to heighten the gaming experience on the Z600.

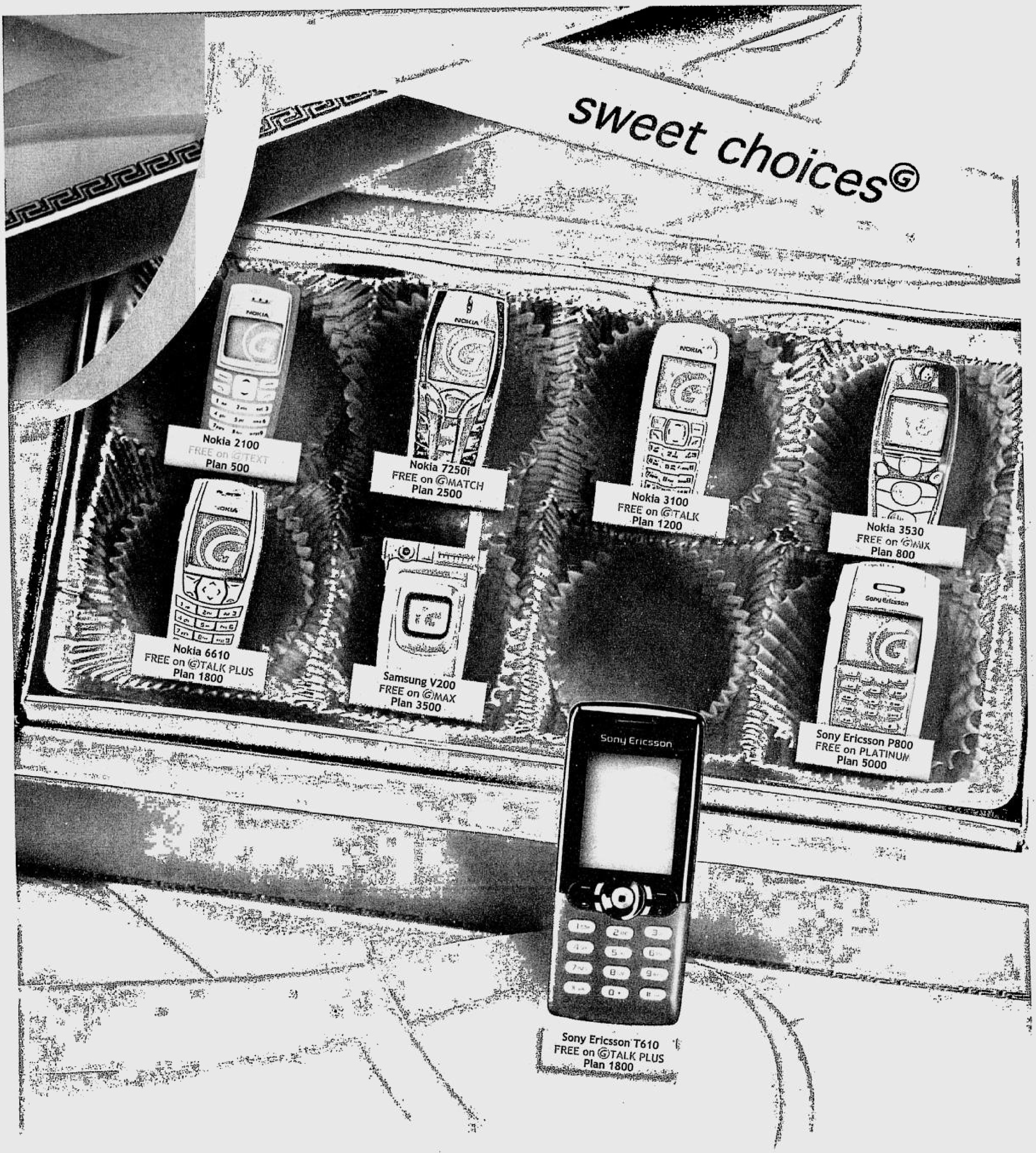
Mallgoers will also get a chance to give the limited edition Sony Ericsson Bluetooth CAR-100 a spin—easily controllable through a Bluetooth-enabled mobile phone.

Visitors at Greenbelt can enjoy game challenges, free downloads, giveaways and special discounts on selected models such as the T100, T105, T310, T610 and P800.

Visitors may join the P800 Coffee Club and learn to maximize the P800 features. Owners and buyers of the P800 get free P800 application packs.

A group of three may also take part in the Dare to Be an Angel contest by dressing and posing like the Charlie's Angels and having their photo taken using a Sony Ericsson or any camera phone.

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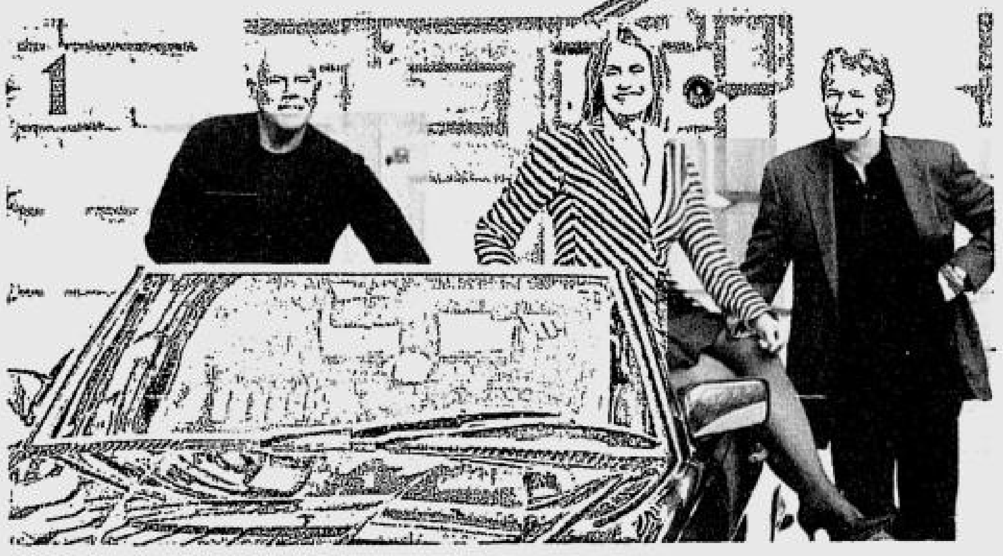
LIFESTYLE

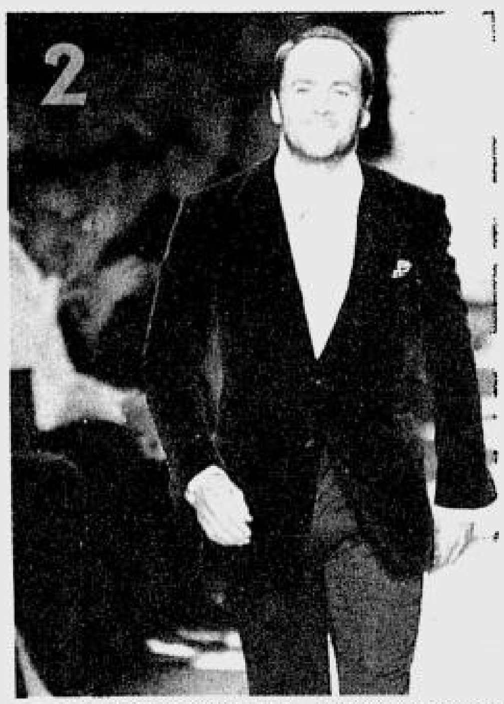
Trend Spotting


1

YOU wear their labels and come across their names in rag mags a lot, but chances are you have no idea how they look.

Guess who these designers are then turn this page upside down to check your answers below.

Do you know your designers?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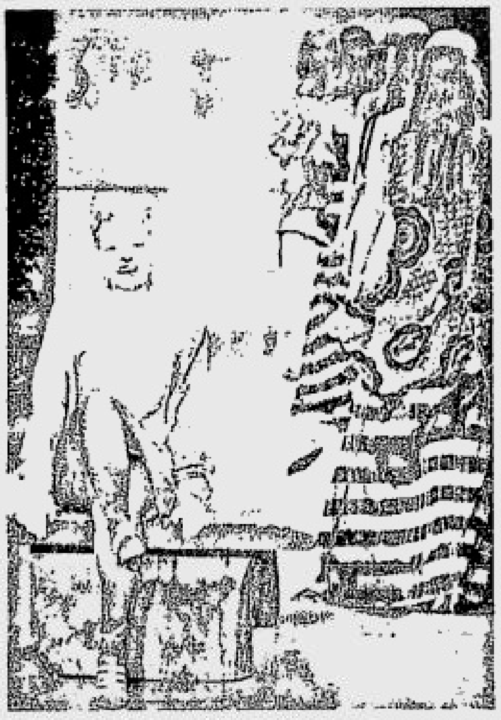

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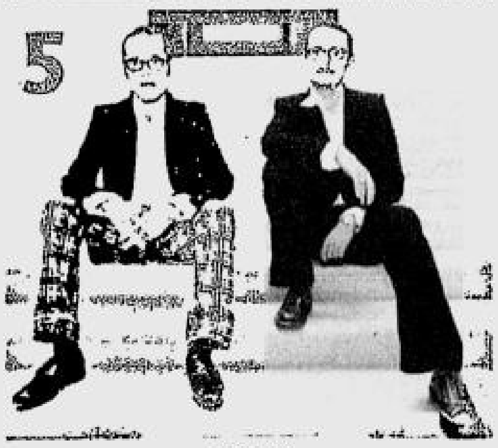
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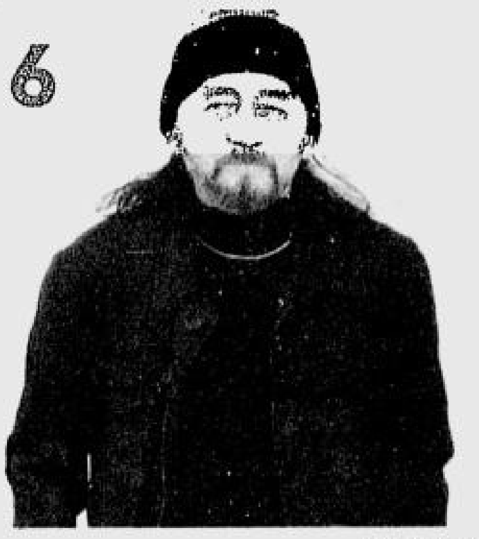
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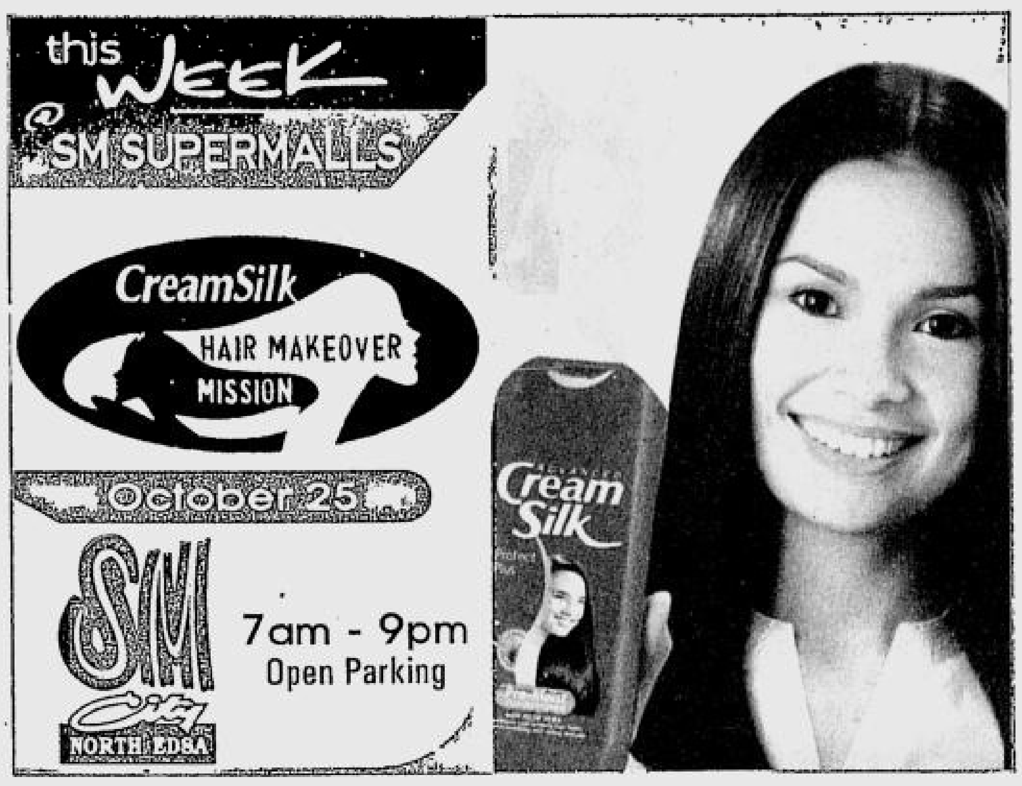
ANSWERS: 1. Giorgio Armani (in black); 2. Tom Ford; 3. Vivienne Westwood; 4. Stella McCartney; 5. Viktor and Rolf; 6. Yohji Yamamoto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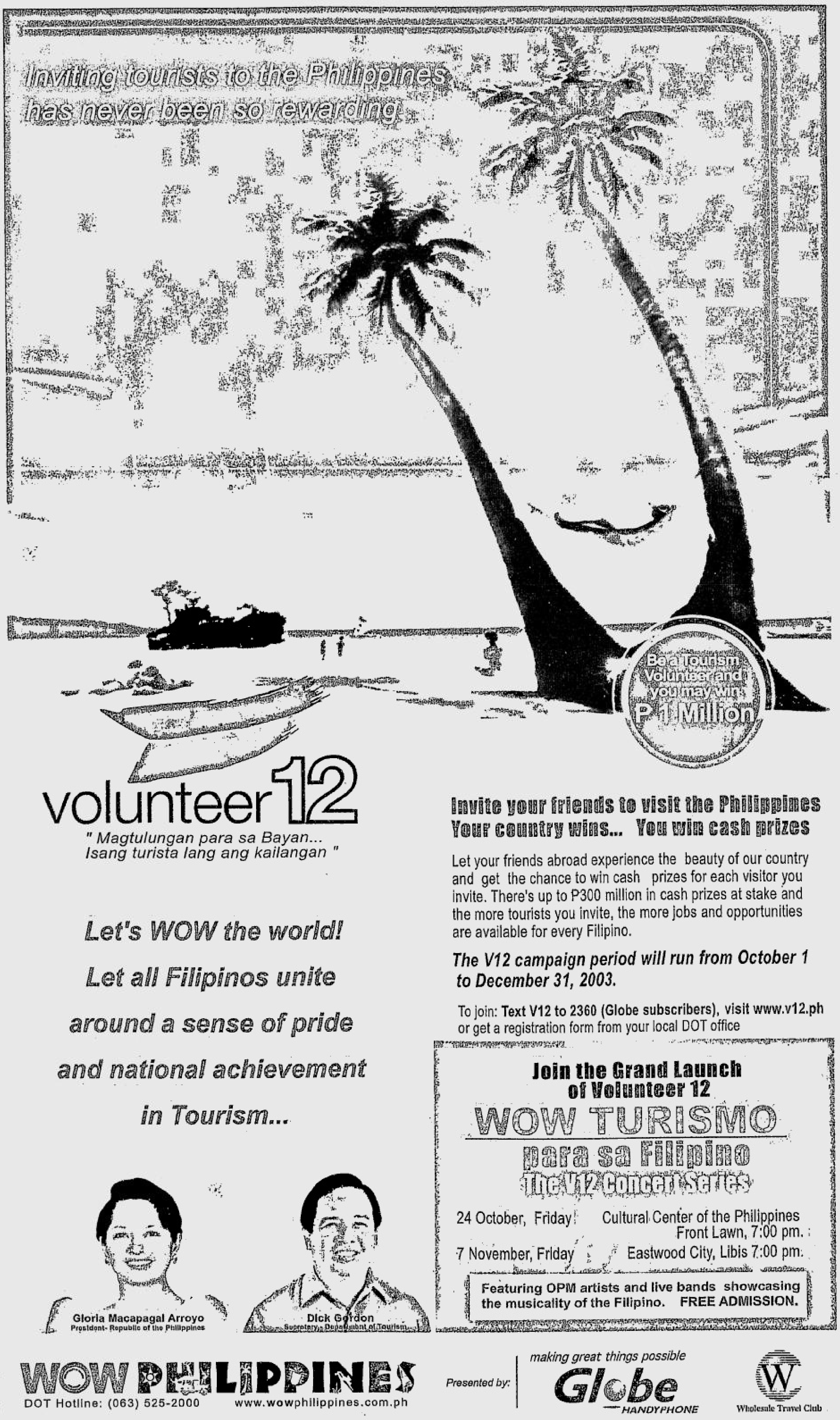
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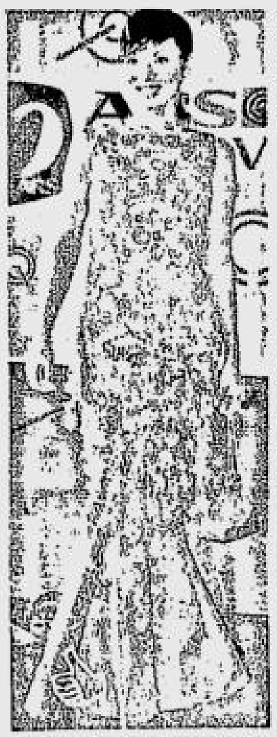


FLESH FOR FANTASY. Aubrey Miles titillates but manages to look chic.

DIAMOND IS FOREVER. Maricel Soriano wins in a simple but classic look.

STANDING TALL. Charo Santos is still every inch a star in this strapless overlap.

SIMPLE SAM. Assunta de Rossi goes plain as Jane, with tepid results.

DESPERATELY SEEKING ASHTON? Guess who a full-figured Dina Bonnevie is aping this time.

MAN-WOMAN. Cindy Kurleto walks down the red carpet in a mannish outfit fit for a production number.

CLEAN AS YOU GO. Ciarra Sotto looks crisp and elegant in a strapless asymmetric.

SEE-THRU. Geneva Cruz reinforces her image from head to toe.

CRISIS! Kris Aquin seems to be in a prolonged fashion dilemma as she ap anew tall and tone Sharon Stone.

BOB

ABS-CBN'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Are the stars out tonight?

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

WHEN ABS-CBN staged its 50th anniversary bash at the Philippine International Convention Center last weekend, the all-night party expectedly became a battle for fashion supremacy among its stars and a proxy war of the country's top designers.

Just like Hollywood, the network's stable of talents gamely traipsed the red carpet in their couture finery on their way to the newly opened Forum.

The fashion one-upmanship continued with a gala performance cum self-pat on the network's back that lasted almost forever. Now that's another story.

And just like in any other war, there were winners as well as losers. For the first time in years (not that we're ecstatic about it), the victors far outnumbered the victims.

Those who want to take a closer look at who wore what and other oddities may watch "Kapamilya: ABS-CBN at 50" on Sunday, 9:30 p.m.

VINTAGE BLUNDER. A hunched Agot Isidro wears an ill-fitting bustier she reportedly borrowed from mom.

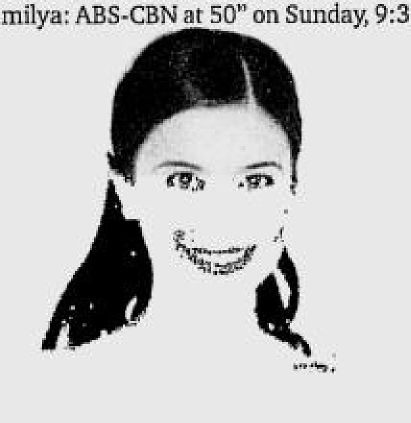
BOBOT MERU

TITO'S ASSET. Helen Gamboa shines in Inno Sotto's black gown with layers of emerald green details.

WHY, *ATE*, WHY? Vilma Santos is weighed down by top-heavy details in a hot pink gown by Inno Sotto.

MEGA MIRACLE. A horizontally-challenged Sharon Cuneta looks a wee bit slimmer in a Paul Cabral.

HOLY DEAD RINGER! Judy Ann Santos, with Robin Padilla, and Gloria Garcia, with husband Freddie Garcia, wear near-identical gowns. But while Gloria manages to look 20 years younger, Judy Ann achieves the opposite.



Leading our cast of big-time winners were Maricel Soriano, Sunshine Cruz, Sharon Cuneta, Charo Santos, Cherie Gil and, down with your eyebrows, please, Aubrey Miles.

Consistently well-dressed Assunta de Rossi failed to make the cut this time, while Geneva Cruz was a walking disaster the minute she stepped on the red carpet.

Back with a vengeance

After her fashion debacle at one of those awards nights several months back, a slimmer Maricel was back with a vengeance this time in an off-shoulder black corset with a "twisted sleeve shawl" by Inno Sotto.

The designer confined the sheen to a series of trademark pins made of Swarovski crystals. In keeping with the gown's understated look, the "Diamond Star" limited her jewelry to a pair of drop earrings.

In contrast, Sharon wore a diamond-studded necklace with a chunky oval-cut aquamarine pendant to add sparkle to Paul Cabral's black silk chiffon gown. For good measure, she wore a pair of diamond studs as big as corn kernels.

If anything, the draped, off-shoulder number with a built-in corset underneath to help rein in the "Megastar's" bumps and bulges attested once more to Cabral's ability to summon up miracles.

To camouflage Sharon's huge arms, for instance, the designer wrapped them in stretch jersey. He then devised a pair of vertical panels that parts in the middle to further impart an illusion of height.

Still, despite Cabral's best efforts, there was no hiding the fact that Sharon was quite, well, fat. It's high time she puts a stop to this endless cycle of yoyo dieting by undergoing a basic but major lifestyle overhaul: eat less and exercise more.

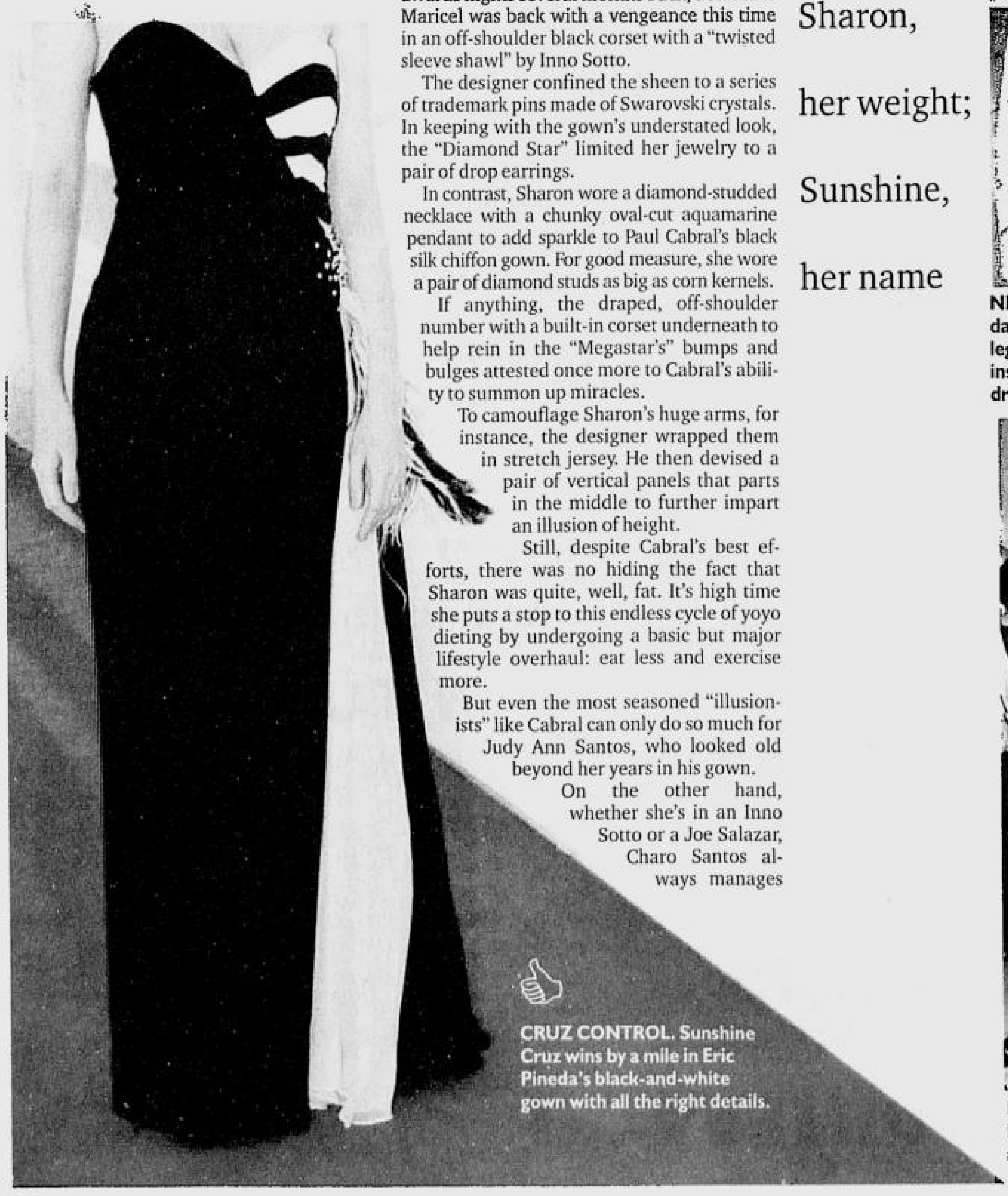
But even the most seasoned "illusionists" like Cabral can only do so much for Judy Ann Santos, who looked old beyond her years in his gown.

On the other hand, whether she's in an Inno Sotto or a Joe Salazar, Charo Santos always manages to stand out.

The former actress, who's now an ABS-CBN exec, first wore Salazar's creation, a semi-beaded peach bustier with a draped overlap, as she greeted guests. She later slipped into Sotto's chartreuse empire-cut silk chiffon number during the show.

Sunshine Cruz made heads turn in Eric Pineda's strapless black silk crepe with an asymmetric bodice made partly of ruche black and white silk chiffon. The designer wisely confined such accents as rhinestone brooches and a pair of ostrich feathers to one side of her waist—the better to show off that body!

Maricel dressed her age; Sharon, her weight; Sunshine, her name



CRUZ CONTROL. Sunshine Cruz wins by a mile in Eric Pineda's black-and-white gown with all the right details.

NEITHER-NOR. Claudine Baretto dares to bare her short, shapeless legs and dark knees in a Grecian-inspired outfit that's neither a dress nor a gown.

Bed look

Sunshine's cousin, Geneva Cruz, also made heads turn for the wrong reasons. She also wore Pineda's creation—a violet gown with a see-through bodice and a super low, asymmetric skirt that definitely left no room for her to slip on a pair of undies.

The piece surprisingly didn't bear the slightest resemblance to what Sunshine wore. Geneva's just-risen-from-bed hairdo further cheapened the look.

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PAPA PIOLO. Can Mr. Pascual look bad in anything?

FIT TO BE TIED? Christine Bersola, with boyfriend Julius Babao, takes her engagement seriously with heavy draping that can probably double as a matrimonial cord.

CURTAIN CALL. Kristine Hermosa, in a Randy Ortiz, turns her back on a busy day, er, gown that's printed, tied and pleated.

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A STUDY IN BAD FIT. Rica Peralejo, Bernard Palanca and Bea Alonzo in ill-fitting creations that make them look either old or sloppy, or both.

HAIR TODAY. The inimitable Cherie Gil sports a 1920s hairdo as she glides in style in Fanny Serrano's draped jersey.

emed to have tugged one of right shoulder seconds before to sing "We are the World" socially relevant" songs.

point anyway? Talk about ng signal to the network's televiewers.

at the singer was just being nage, there are a million and o expose her body without elf appear downright cheap.

re that many of these stars ceived notions of what looks them. Vilma Santos, for in-e, always insist on wearing ht colors. Maricel, always scious of her upper arms, er leaves home without cov-ng them. Well and good.

Unless they've developed an nate sense of style, however, hances are these stars will of-en miss their mark. Designers are there precisely to rein in their primal urges.

Geneva can learn a thing or two from Aubrey. Thanks in part to her chic hairdo, the "bold" star and televi-n host managed to look h despite baring some flesh ederick Peralta's fuchsia en-le: a cobweb of a top paired a taffeta skirt with a fishtail uette.

rey managed to titillate imagination without unduly ng their wives and girlfriends.

lta, however, seemed to lost his touch in his new col-ation with favorite client As-. Not only was her tiffany gown too plain, the material designer used looked far n, ah, expensive.

f not for her height, pretty e and slim build, Assunta uld have been consigned aight to the dustbin of fash-oblivion.

And in a profession that ves on self-promotion and that often borders on narcis-e overlooked or forgotten is than death.

author at avergara@inquir-

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"GRAND Italia" will showcase top designs from fashion capitals Milan and Rome.

FOR THE FIRST time ever, over 40 of the best clothing, fragrance, home, food and beverage brands from Italy will be showcased on Oct. 29 to Nov. 30 at "Grand Italia," the ultimate Italian sensory experience at Rustan's.

In cooperation with the Italian embassy led by Ambassador Umberto Colesanti and the Italian Trade Commission headed by trade commissioner Giacomo Nicastro, together with The Peninsula Manila, Generali Filipinas, Philippine-Italian Association, Air France, Alitalia and and Princess Cruises, the Rustan's Group of Companies is once again hosting the 2003 Italian festival to increase public awareness of the many choices and culinary and fashion influences Italy has brought to the Philippines.

The world's most famous Italian fashion, beauty, fragrance and home brands from Rustan's Department Stores, Stores Specialists Inc. and Rustan's Marketing Corp., as well as Bulgari and Rustan's Supermarkets, will be showcased in this seven-week Italian experience.

The festival starts on Oct. 29 with an invitational Venetian masquerade ball called "Le maschera d' Italia," which promises to be an evening of great food and wine, music, mime artistry and fashion.

From Oct. 29 to Nov. 30, visual merchandising vignettes and window displays in all Rustan's stores will showcase Italy's many exciting and popular landmarks in a design show called "Stilo Italia."

Shoppers will also get to enjoy Savor Italia, a festival of food and wine at Rustan's Supermarkets and Bon Appetit. Every weekend, Rustan's Supermarkets will offer cheese and wine, pasta, coffee and Perugina chocolate tasting, as well as discount promotions.

BAGS and purses by Prada

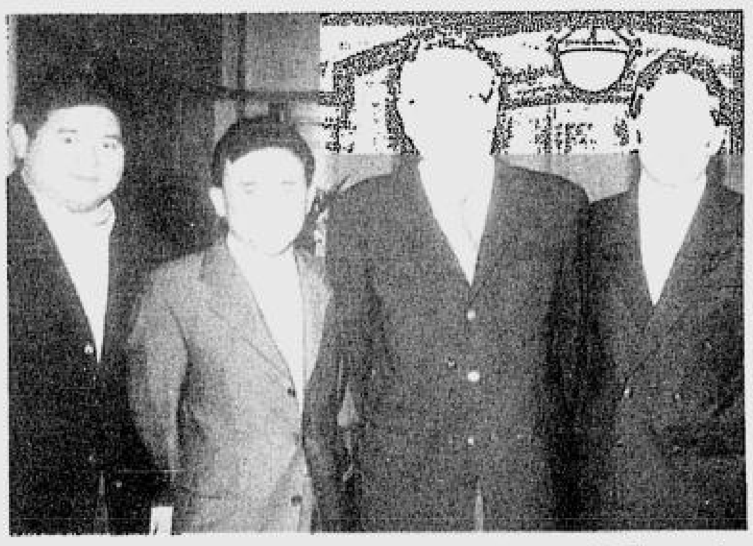
Bon Appetit will also feature Italian dishes, while Tutto Moda, Stores Specialists' latest specialty store, opens in Glorietta this November with fashion shows on Nov. 15 at Makati Shangri-La and on Nov. 22 at The Peninsula Manila.

Capping the festival is "Gran Lotteria" or grand raffle, the main prizes of which are: a 12-day Mediterranean Cruise between Venice, Italy, Barcelona and Spain courtesy of Princess Cruises; a trip from Manila to any key city of Italy courtesy of Air France; a city trip for two in Italy sponsored by Alitalia; and a Go-Kart worth 10,000 Euro.

Other exciting prizes include P25,000 worth of gift certificates from Salvatore Ferragamo, Prada and Ermenegildo Zegna; P10,000 gift certificates from Tutto Moda; a cookware showcase from Rustan's Supermarket; and a weekend stay for two courtesy of The Peninsula Manila.

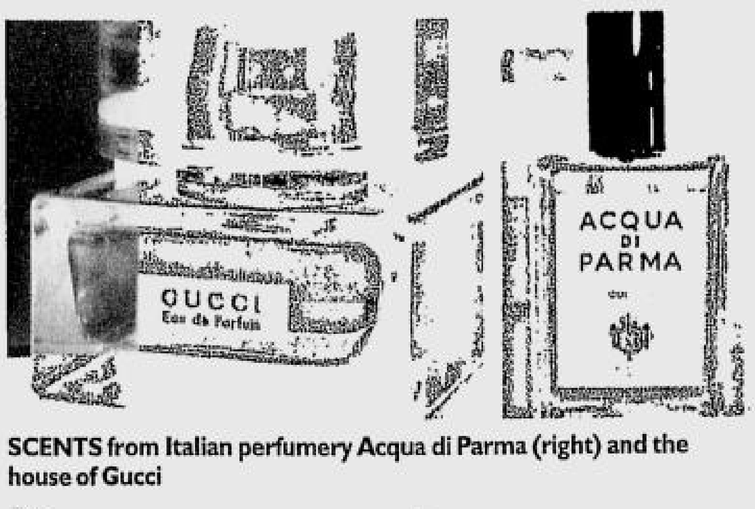
A purchase of P2,500 worth of items from the participating brands inside Rustan's department store and P1,000 in the supermarket entitles customers to join the grand raffle.

THE FESTIVAL hopes to increase public awareness of the fashion and other influences Italy has brought to the Philippines.



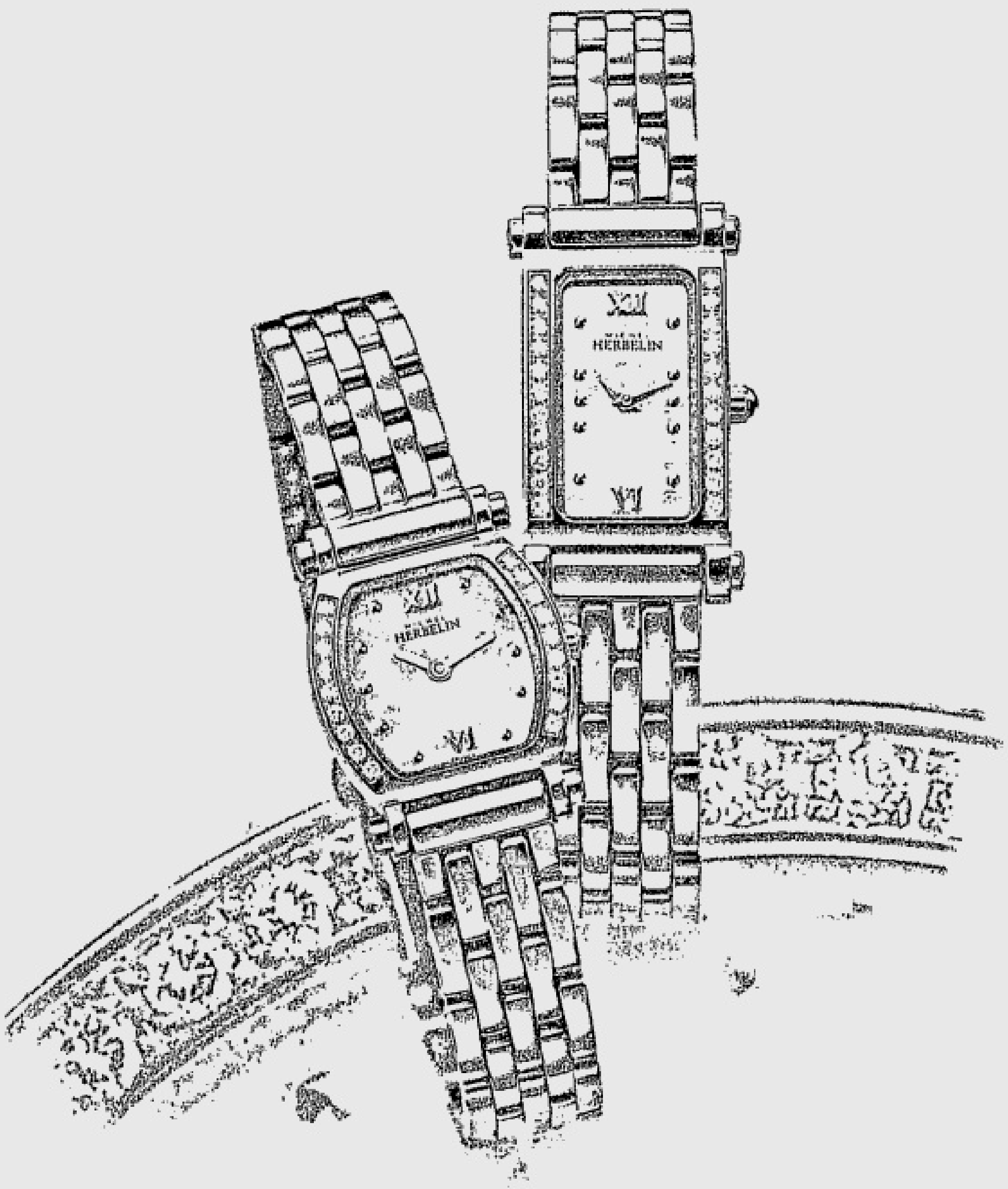
ANTON T. Huang, EVP, Stores Specialists Inc; Bienvenido Tantoco Jr., president, Rustan's Commercial Corp.; Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesanti; and David Batchelor, GM, Peninsula Manila

MARILEN Valbuena, director for marketing, Rustan's Commercial Corp. and Giacomo Nicastro, Italian trade commisioner



SCENTS from Italian perfumery Acqua di Parma (right) and the house of Gucci

THESE sandals typify the beauty and craftsmanship of Italian footwear.



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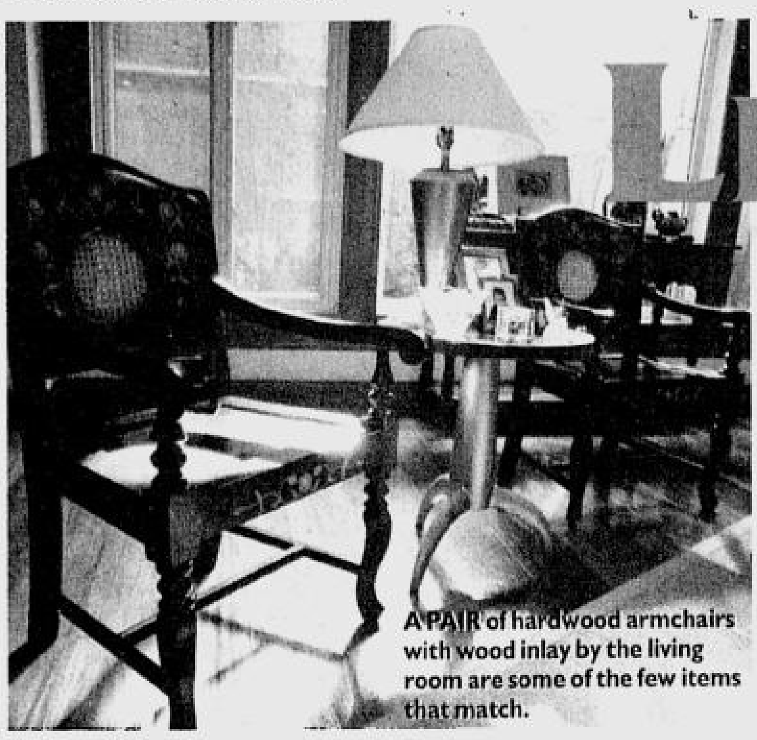


A PAIR of hardwood armchairs with wood inlay by the living room are some of the few items that match.

House of tasteful 'rebellion'

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

MARRIED life has led seasoned mannequin and INQUIRER Lifestyle columnist Apples Aberin-Sadhwani to a newfound passion. With a little help from interior designer Nina Sta. Maria of Grupo Sta. Maria, she redid a fairly new house in one of Makati's exclusive villages into an eclectic haven that reflects her and her family's lifestyle.

"I've always been into fashion because of my work," she says. "Lately, however, I've realized that I also enjoy doing things related to the home."

The Sadhwanis—Raj and Apples and their two kids Samantha, 12, and Martin, 3—moved into their two-story, four-bedroom abode last year. Although the structure, with a pale yellow façade teeming with Swiss and Mediterranean touches, was fairly intact, Aberin-Sadhwani and Sta. Maria had less than a month to rework the interiors. Fortunately, the family's old home was a mere three houses away.

"You should have seen me lugging the family's VCR in the middle of the night," she says with a chuckle. "Every minute counted."

From then on, the duo lost no time scouring home stores and hardware depots to achieve Aberin-Sadhwani's vision: a mix of "earthy, textured and traditional" elements as reflected in the abundant use of wood, luscious colors and Oriental-inspired furniture and accent pieces. It's a good thing the house came with floors made of wall-to-wall narra planks, which provided the mistress of the home with an ideal medium for her "rebellion."

Against minimalism

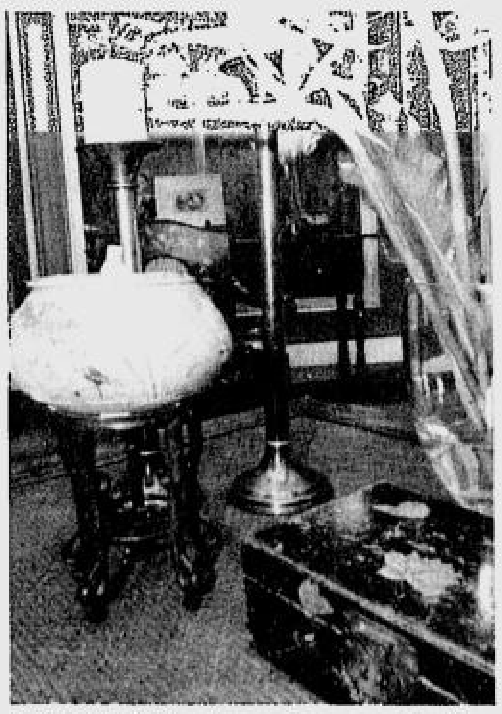
"This perhaps is my rebellion against minimalism," says Aberin-Sadhwani. Although she loves objects from the Orient, the Zen look is definitely not for her. Nor is she partial to matching items in the living room.

Except for a pair of hardwood armchairs, for instance, no furniture piece is exactly the same. Among the few items in *terno* are several throw pillows that echo the furniture's printed upholstery. A large, soft couch in beige, which is definitely more Western than Eastern, is Aberin-Sadhwani's concession to comfort.

She then turned a Chinese day bed, a repro by furniture designer Budji Layug, into a coffee table teeming with authentic and stylized accent pieces. Among her favorites is a glazed Ching Dynasty vase with green and blue figures set on a mustard background.

The wife's influence spills over to the husband's domain: an adjacent den or TV room with Mexican red walls decked with paintings by such Filipino artists as Joya, Malang, Ibarra and Baldemor. She had a built-in armoire that came with the house refashioned to accommodate the hubby's entertainment gad-

HOUSE/ E2



THE CHING Dynasty vase happens to be the wife's favorite.

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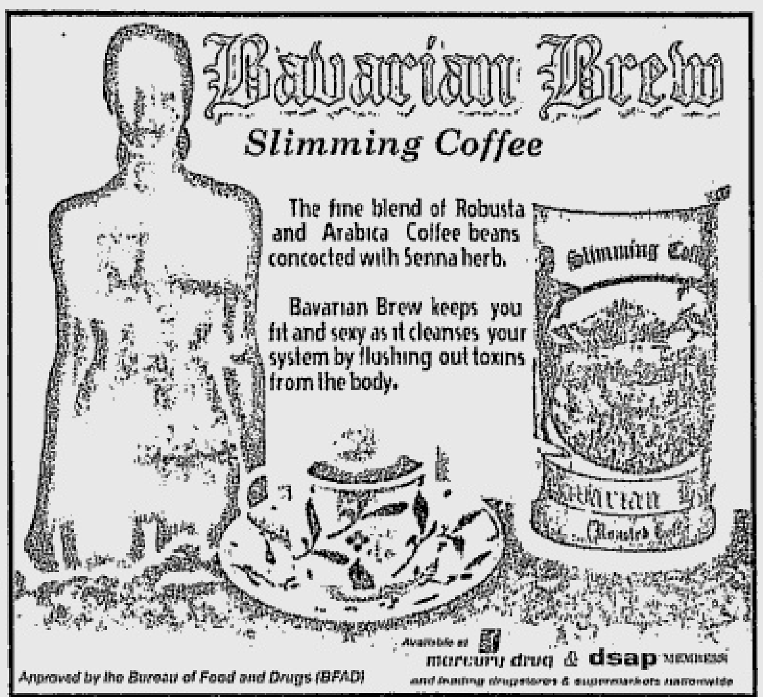

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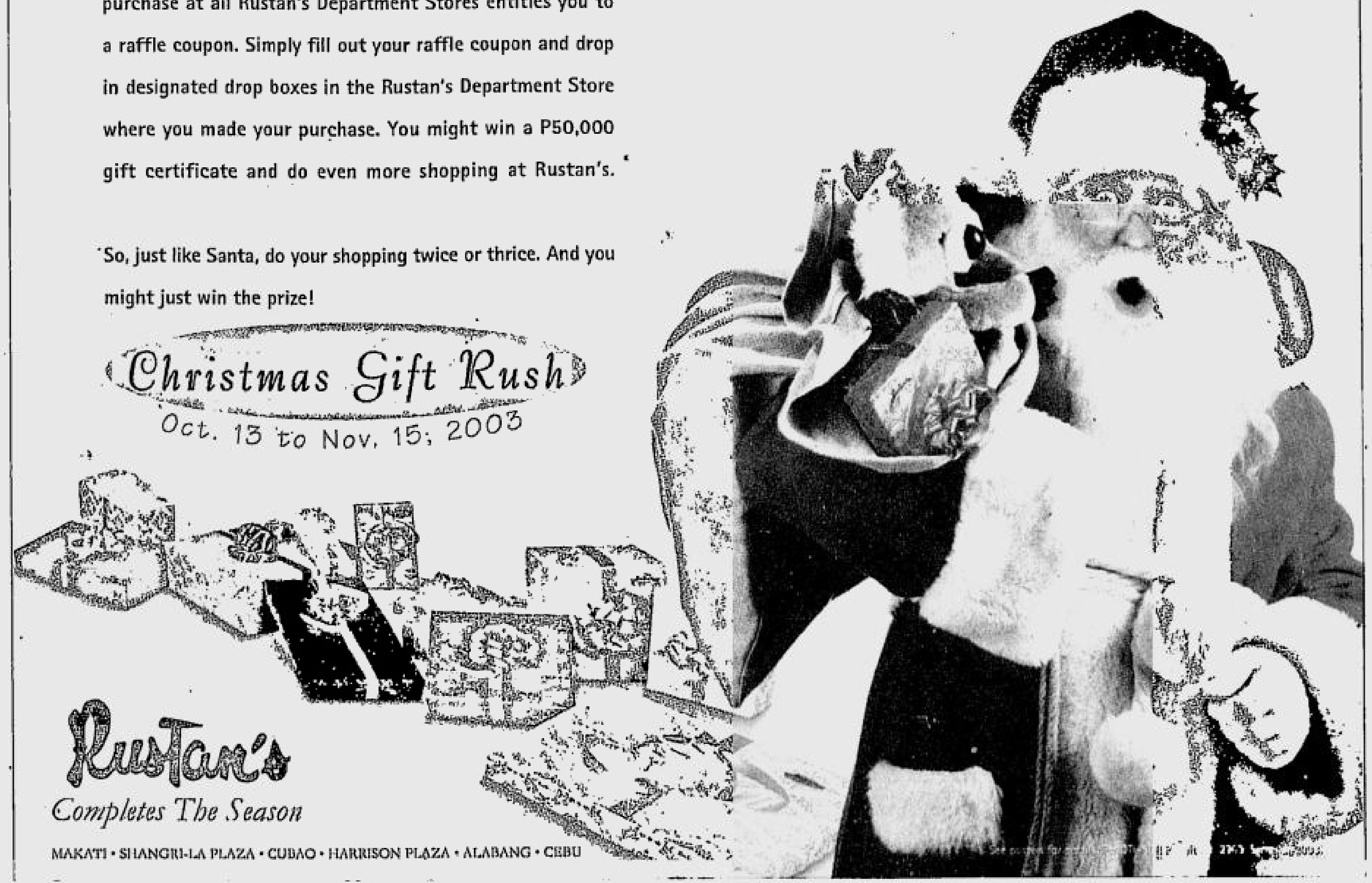
So, just like Santa, do your shopping twice or thrice. And you might just win the prize!

Christmas Gift Rush
Oct. 13 to Nov. 15, 2003



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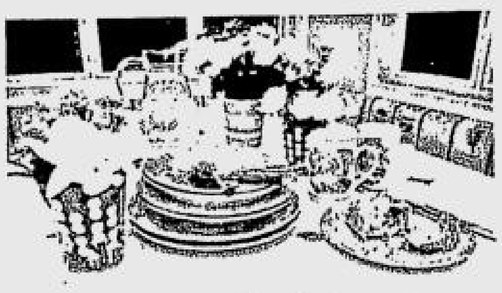
THE MASTER bedroom is devoid of lush colors, so as not to distract the couple as they unload themselves of the day's cares. The tall, four-poster bed is one of the bedroom's focal points.

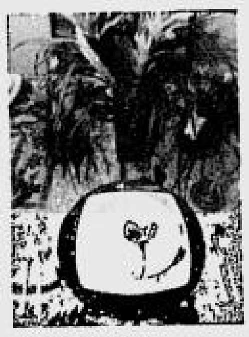
SAMANTHA'S classmates are welcome to sleep over in her bedroom with pink walls.


TOILE de Jouy meets Martha Stewart

House of tasteful 'rebellion'

LITTLE Martin's bedroom

Veteran model Apples Aberin-Sadhwani forsakes minimalism for an ebullient look in her home


BALINESE flavor

From page E1

gets. In lieu of an Asian-inspired sofa, which she favors, the couple had to settle for a black leather couch and matching ottoman, a remnant from their old home.

The Sadhwanis also love to entertain, never mind if the wife isn't much into cooking. But with a little help from the family's cook and household help, she can whip up a menu for eight people within a short notice. "I can also make a mean salad," she says with a smile, referring to her favorite mandarin orange salad.

The family's dining area, with its sage green walls designed to blend with the outdoors, can easily assume a certain look depending on the wife's moods. For this photo shoot, for instance, she comes up with her version of a Balinese-inspired table setting: printed tablecloth, woven placemats and a series of lush bromeliads as the centerpiece.

Picture windows by the dining room open out to a pocket garden and lanai that doubles as the children's play area. Wooden planks make up much of the family's backyard, while the fringes are planted to hardy tropical plants. Aberin-Sadhwani, who regularly seeks the help of Abby Abiol of A Garden@theSite, personally tends to the plants.

Homey

The breakfast nook, with its mélange of French, English and American influences, is a decidedly eclectic and homey affair. English ironstone plates with toile de Jouy prints and plastic drinking glasses cum vases add to the entire setup's charm. Each glass, from Martha Stewart's collection for K-Mart, brims with yellow and violet blooms Aberin-Sadhwani herself sourced at the Dangwa bus terminal in Manila.

"I also love to make flower arrangements," she says. "In fact, I'm thinking of inviting several friends over for dinner tonight." Might as well since the table is ready.

If certain areas of the house teem with colors, Aberin-Sadhwani made sure that the spacious master bedroom is devoid of bold shades and busy accent pieces that can distract them as they unload themselves of the day's cares.

One of the bedroom's focal points is a tall four-poster bed that easily blends with the beige walls, narra floor and earth-toned curtains. Toile de Jouy prints have again resurfaced, this time in the form of a padded sofa by the foot of the bed and a sitting area by the bay window.

The sofa is perhaps an extension of the den downstairs. Family members often find themselves huddled in the sofa watching their favorite DVDs on a giant, flat-screen TV. But TV viewing has to wait until Samantha is finished with all her homework. Meanwhile, her friends from school are most welcome to sleep over anytime.

"Working on this house has been one of the most fulfilling things I've done for my family," says Aberin-Sadhwani. "It makes me happy whenever I see them happy where we are. Since we're not fond of going out at night, this place has become a haven for us."

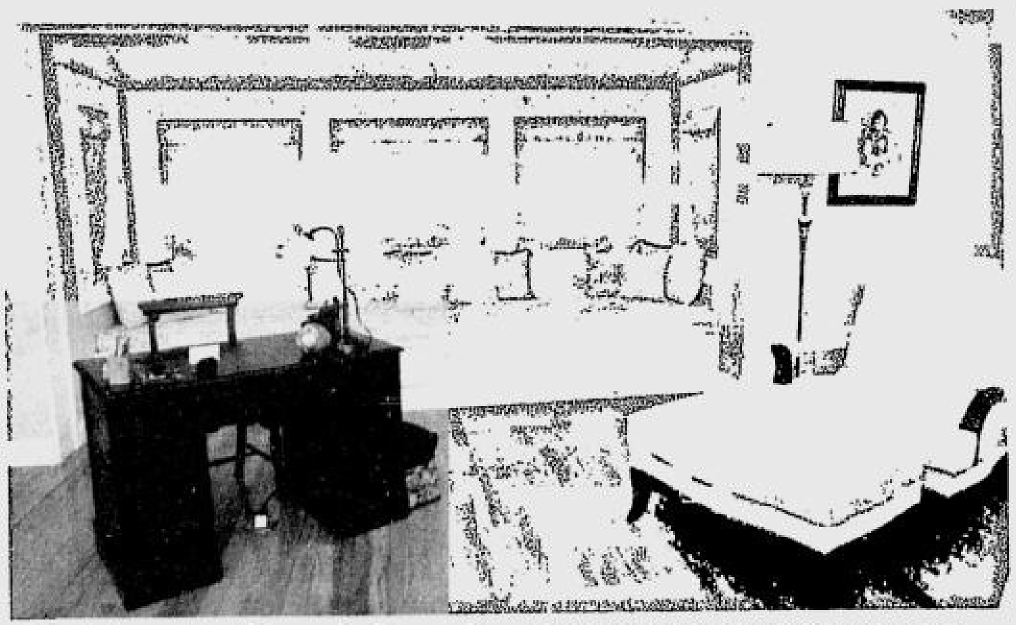
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

WALL-TO-WALL narra planks make for a textured and ideal canvas for Apples' ideas

THE SADHWANIS: Martin, Raj, Apples and Samantha

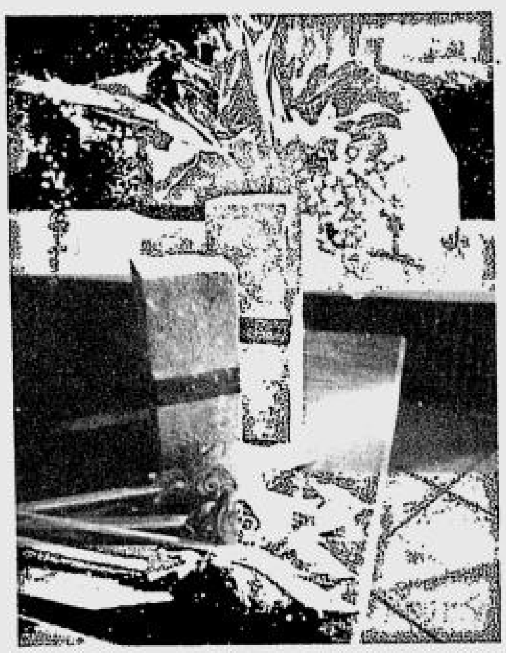
THE BREAKFAST nook is a homey and eclectic affair

THE DINING room with sage green walls

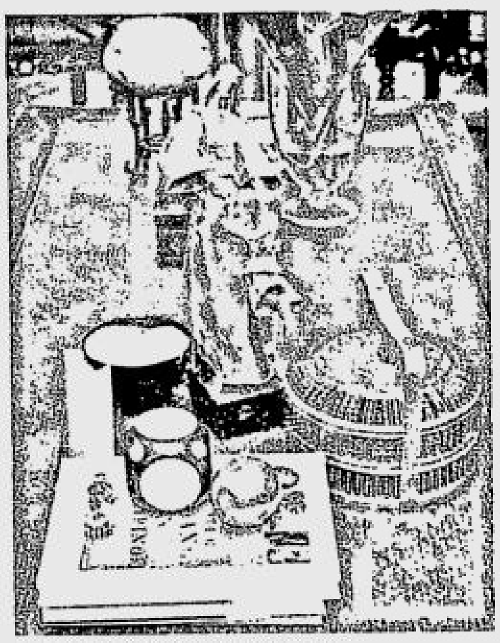

BAY window, padded divan and antique writing desk lend a Western flavor to this corner.

THE DEN with its rich Mexican red walls and manly leather couch

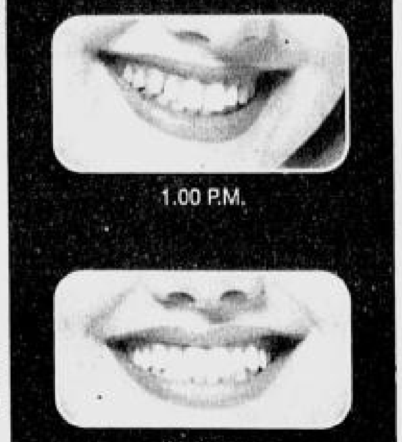
HARDY plants line the lanai's edges.



TROPICAL elements



A MIX of the old and the new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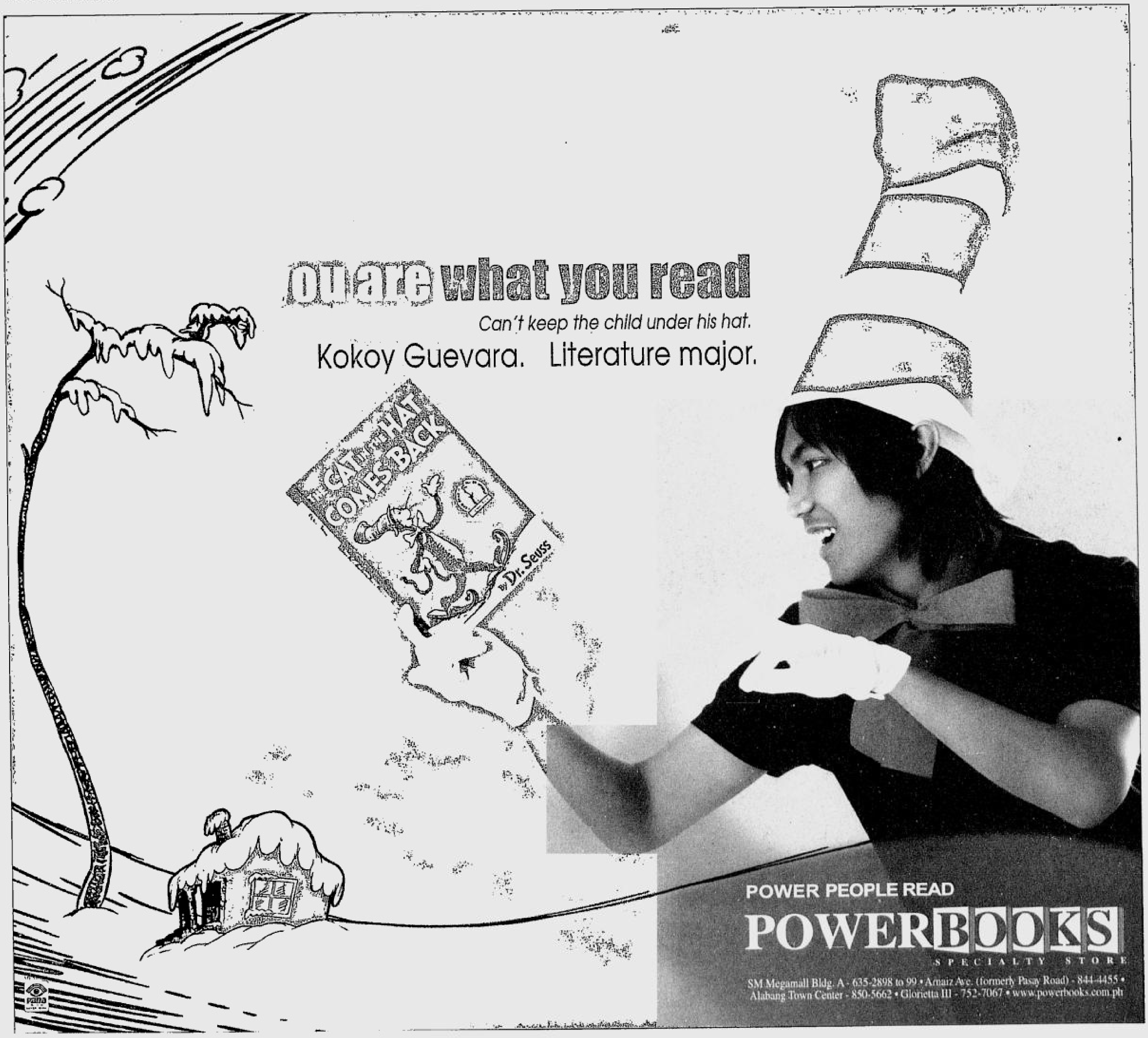
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Married woman falls for married man

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

IN the past years, I often read your solutions and guidance as to what direction to go through when faced with problems. Having already known your answers when it came to questions of morals, I still decided to write you.

I am married, but I love another man who is also married. We had been intimate, but one day he suddenly said goodbye for fear of having a broken family. He said he loved me, but there should no longer be intimate moments between us.

Up to now, we stay apart. If we meet, we just talk, but I am still hoping for us to be together again, because I love hum very much, just as I love the man I married. What do you think?

ADDY

You are not asking for advice, but what I think. I think your mind and your heart are on parallel lines. You are aware that your emotions are wrong and sinful because you are married and should be loyal to your husband.

I think you should consider seriously what the other man told you. He respects his marriage vows.

I think you wrote to me with the hope that you can think about your life as you express your feelings. And since you stated that you have read what I wrote about morals and proper conduct in the past, I think it is high time for you to pray the act of contrition, reform and live each day with a clear conscience.

It is about time to prevent more problems in your life, complications much worse than just missing that other man. Please consider my thoughts seriously.

More engaged encounter weekends set

Thank you for your advice for engaged couples to attend the Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE). The venue of the next marriage preparation on Nov. 7-9 will be at Manresa Retreat House, 164 Banawe St., Quezon City. The last weekend encounter this year will be on Nov. 28-30 at John Pollock Retreat Center, Ateneo de Manila Compound, QC.

The program is also open to civilly married couples who would like to get married in church, as well as to those living-in but are also determined to have their wedding vows.

During weekends, couples are given the opportunity to examine their lives together through communication, giving them the chance to share their feelings, disappointments, joys, frustrations, and to do so openly and honestly in a face-to-face, heart-to-heart setting.

The CEE is designed to deepen and enrich their relationship with each other, and with God. This is also a time for couples to examine their relationships away from the distractions and tensions of everyday life.

The program is led by a group of volunteer couples and priests. Thank you for your support of our apostolate.

VINCHY AND ELISHA LIRIOS

Thank you for your update on CEE. Those interested to know about the weekend schedules for 2004 may contact the Lirios couple at 7214153; Ana Madamba, 7266568; Robbie and Bernadette Fabian, 8296182; or Dado and Cory Hipolito, 8100222. E-mail ceephilippines@yahoo.com. The priest in charge is Fr. Dave Clay (5233361).

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

Mall launches Make-A-Wish Foundation Christmas cards

SHANGRI-LA Plaza will hold The Power of a Wish on Oct. 29-Nov. 7 at the 4/L, Art Plaza. This event will launch the Make-A-Wish Foundation Christmas cards, with an art exhibit by Malang, Jovito, Jun Martin, Michael Cacnio and other artists from Gallery 828.

CHAMPIONSHIP. Toby's Sports presents Junior Age Badminton Championships. Eliminations will be held on Oct. 25, 26, 29-31 at La Salle Greenhills with finals on Nov. 2 and 3 at Megamall. Photo shows Philippine Badminton Association president former first lady Amelita Ramos (second from right) with Toby's sports operation manager Toby Claudio and Toby's Junior Age Group Badminton Championship organizers Bing and Dina Guerrero.

GOINGS ON

SALE. Sta. Lucia East department store and Planet Toys offer discounts on children's apparel, shoes, toys and accessories in the ongoing Kids' Fair. Shoppers can win free movie or bowling passes, and raffle prizes when you buy any kiddie stuff worth at least P300 from Sleds and Planet Toys. A kiddie passport that will serve as ticket to Kid's Day Out tomorrow, 2 p.m., at the mall's entertainment center, will be given to the first 300 customers. Call 6815181 local 138.

HEALING SERIES. ABS-CBN will feature the documentary series titled "Natural Healing" on Oct. 26, 4:30 p.m., on SkyCable ANC Channel 21. The edition features one of the pioneers of natural healing in the country, Dr. A. Omar G. Arabia II, with three of his documented, long-term recovered cancer patients of 18 years and under Prof. Elsa Anonuevo, Fleeta Erasquin and Anita Jimenez.

FORUM. The De La Salle University Professional Schools, Inc.-Graduate School of Business will hold an academic forum tomorrow at DLSU Taft campus. The forum will include events geared toward social responsibility.

SCHOOL EVENT. Southville International School and Colleges in Las Piñas commemorates International Week until Oct. 25 with activities.

PARTY. Shangri-La Plaza Mall's Thrills and Treats Halloween Kids Party will be held every afternoon on Oct. 24-26 at the 2/L, Grand Atrium. Trick or Treat will be held on Oct. 26. Parents can pre-register their kids on Oct. 24.

TRADE SHOW. Manila F.A.M.E. celebrates its 20th year until Oct. 26 at the World Trade Center, East and West Pavilions and the Philippine Trade Training Center. To he showcased are houseware, gifts, holiday decor and fashion accessories.

MUSICAL EVENT. Casio Musical Affair—Musical Intimacy in the Malls will be held on Oct. 25-31 at Ali Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao, QC. Call 6877486/87 or 7051519.

WORKSHOP. The Highest Vision Foundation will hold a retreat workshop, Remember and Recreate: Conversations with the Soul, on Nov. 8 and 9, 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., at Martha's Vineyard, Amapola corner Estrella Streets, Makati. Call 4107449/7231476/0917-5360005 or e-mail prcp@info.com.ph.

HOMECOMING. The University of the Philippines Alumni Engineers will hold its annual homecoming and reunion on Nov. 8, 4:30 p.m., at Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman, QC. Call 9261516/4343632 or e-mail ronilo.salustiano@up.edu.ph.

BAZAAR. Tahanan ng Panginoon is holding a bazaar on Nov. 16, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at Ateneo College covered courts. Those who wish to donate clothes, toys, shoes, bags, pots and pans, books, etc. may bring them to any Papemelroti branch.

WORKSHOP. Passing Through Grief Workshop will be held on Nov. 28-30 at Alberione Oasis in Antipolo City. This workshop aims to help those who have lost their loved ones cope with their grief. Family ministry counselors will assist participants. Call 6471186 or 0917-4172774.

BAZAAR. Zonta Manila I will hold its 5th international bazaar on Oct. 26, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Proceeds will go to the Nutrition and Health Kiddie class in its Tondo center. Call 8128191/8402591.

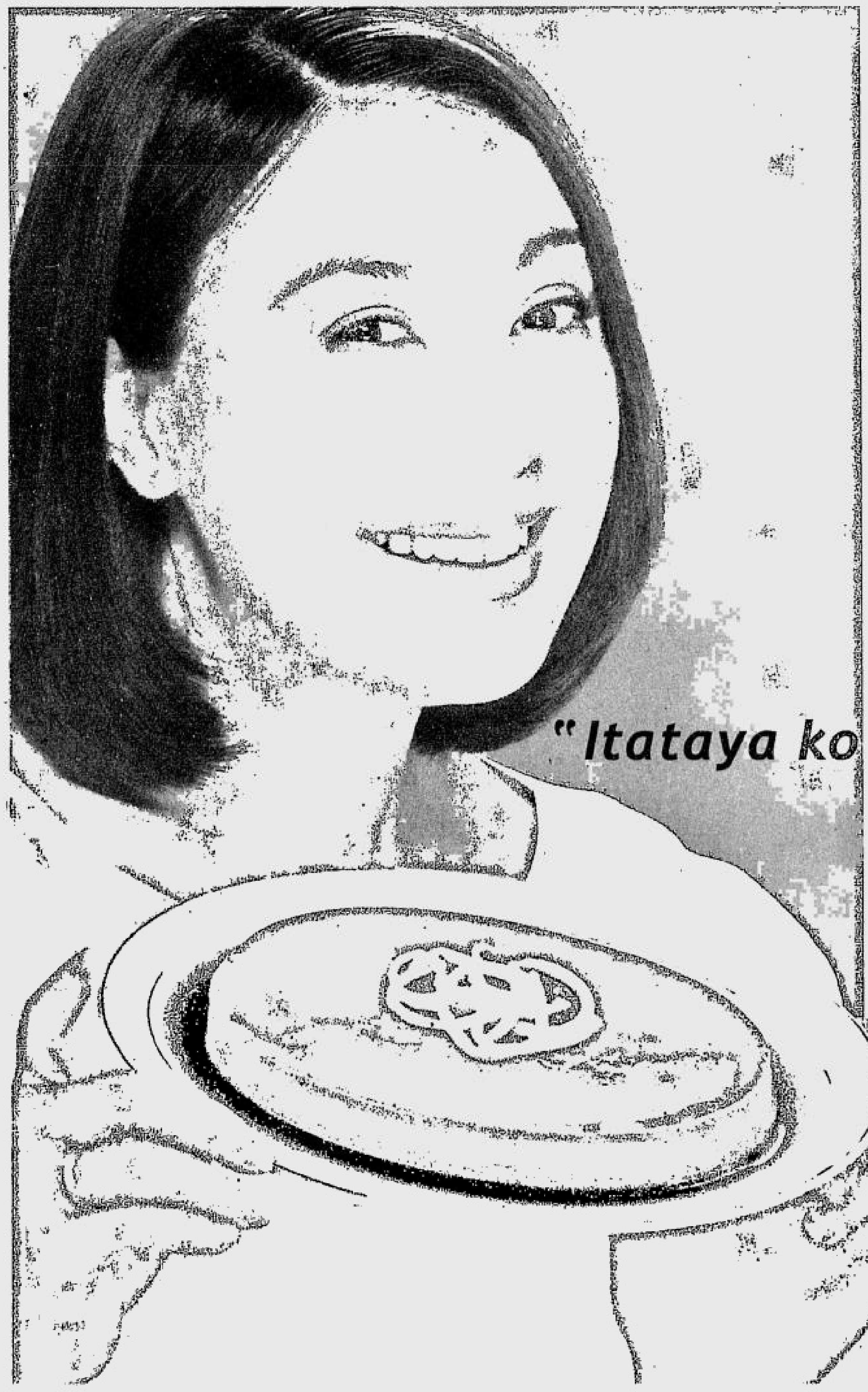
BAZAAR. The Noel Discovery Bazaar will be held at Manila Polo Club on Oct. 25-26. Proceeds of the bazaar will benefit the projects of Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation, GMA Kapuso Foundation and Hands On Manila Foundation. Call 6870654/0604/2955/7523 or e-mail cut@pacific.net.ph.

WORKSHOP. ABS-CBN will hold a free intensive scriptwriting workshop to be conducted by Ricky Lee. The workshop is open to high school graduates who are at least 18 years old. Registration is on Oct. 26 and Nov. 8, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at ABS-CBN Studio 1 Plaza. Applicants are requested to bring a valid identification and two passport-size photos. Call 9289557/4112020 or e-mail writersdevt@abs.pinoycentral.com.

PROMO. Casio features Pasasalamat, an annual tradition of giving rewards as a token of appreciation to Casio's loyal customers and patrons through the years. For every purchase of any Casio keyboard, customers can get one raffle coupon. Deadline for submission of coupons is on Oct. 31. Raffle draw is on Nov. 15.

NOVENA. Monfort Foundation, Inc. will launch the Prayer Warriors of the Holy Souls on Nov. 2, 9:45 a.m., at the Basilica of San Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo, Manila. A Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Josefino Ramirez and Fr. Jojo Zerrudo.

ALASKA
ALASKA MILK CORPORATION



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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2003
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE
Trend Spotting
F1

MUNCHKINS on a Stick
P24
DUNKIN' DONUTS

Paris when it sizzles

LAYERED chiffon blouse with crisscross back and short beaded skirt

By Cheche V. Moral

SUMMER reached feverish heights in the City of Lights, but trust Efren Ocampo not to get caught in delirious abandon and let his design philosophy melt in the Parisian heat. The designer chose the French capital as backdrop for his 2003 holiday collection.

Shooting in public places in Paris was easy. "There was no need for a permit unless you wanted to cordon off the area," recalls Ocampo.

The holiday in France turned into a working trip for the ready-to-wear designer as he hooked up with Malou Ramos who used to model for his mentor, Dante Ramirez, in the '70s.

Ramos later modeled for the houses of Givenchy, St. Laurent and Ungaro. Her statuesque daughter, Gwenael Ruais, now 17, became Ocampo's mannequin for the Paris shoot as the group hit the city's landmarks. Swedish lensman Seppo Suomela took the photos. Ramos did the makeup, while another former Filipina model now based in France, Susan Chanot, styled the shoot.

The collection

For his 2003 holiday collection, Ocampo revisits the little black dress and lets go a little by cropping the tops and skirts to up to there.

PARIS/ F2

Efren Ocampo's 2003 holiday collection for SM Boutique shows more glitz, more attitude and more skin

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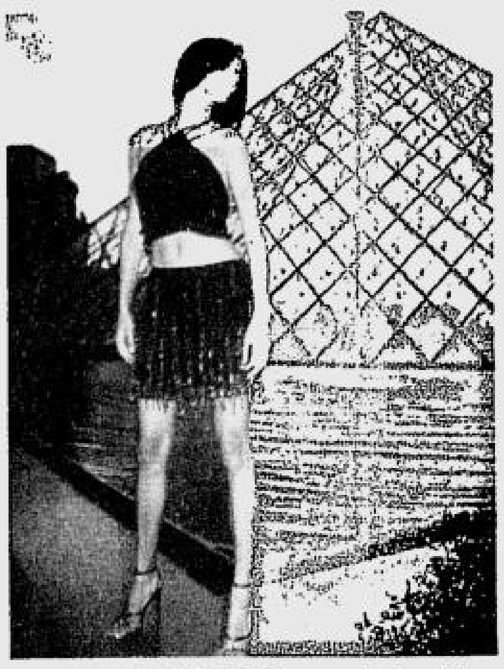
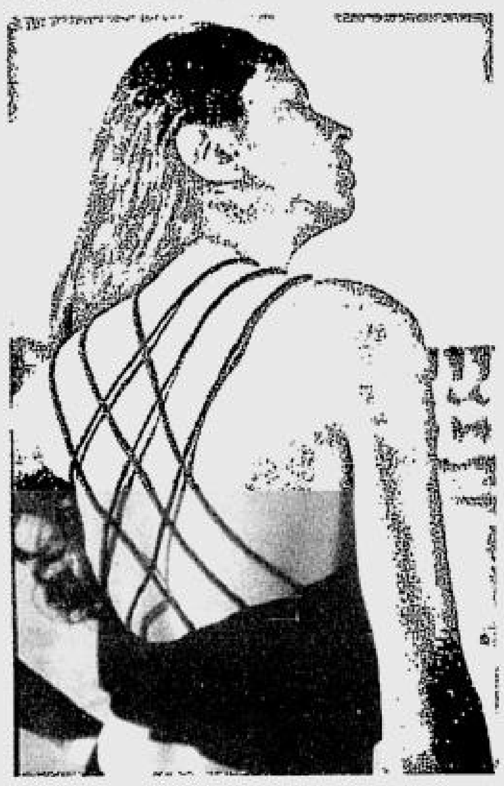
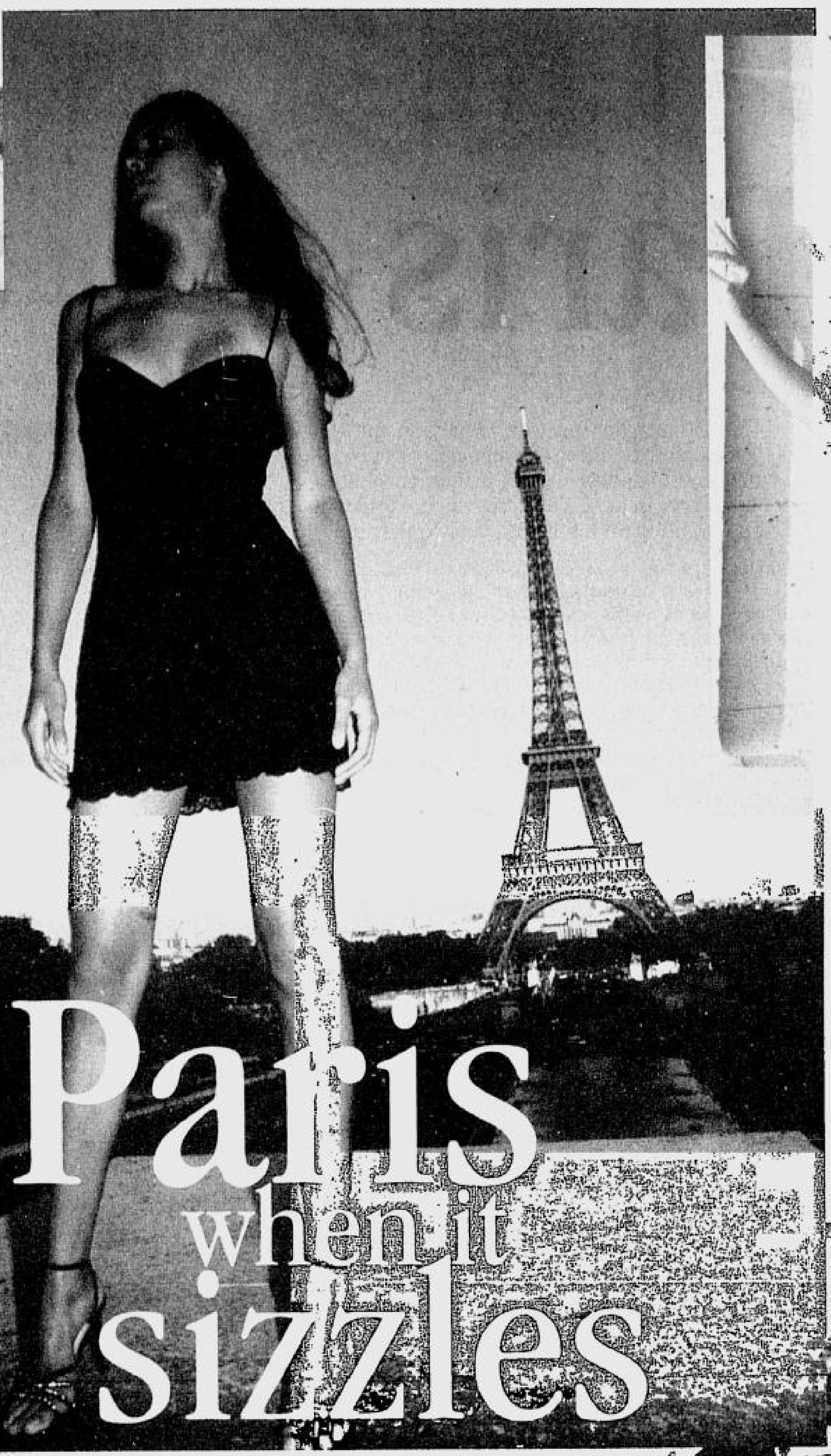
Bel-Air Village, Makati City / Tel. 895-5858 and 895-6868
SPA

BLACK chiffon blouse beaded in black, gray and silver. Location: Les Invalides, where Napoleon Bonaparte is buried.

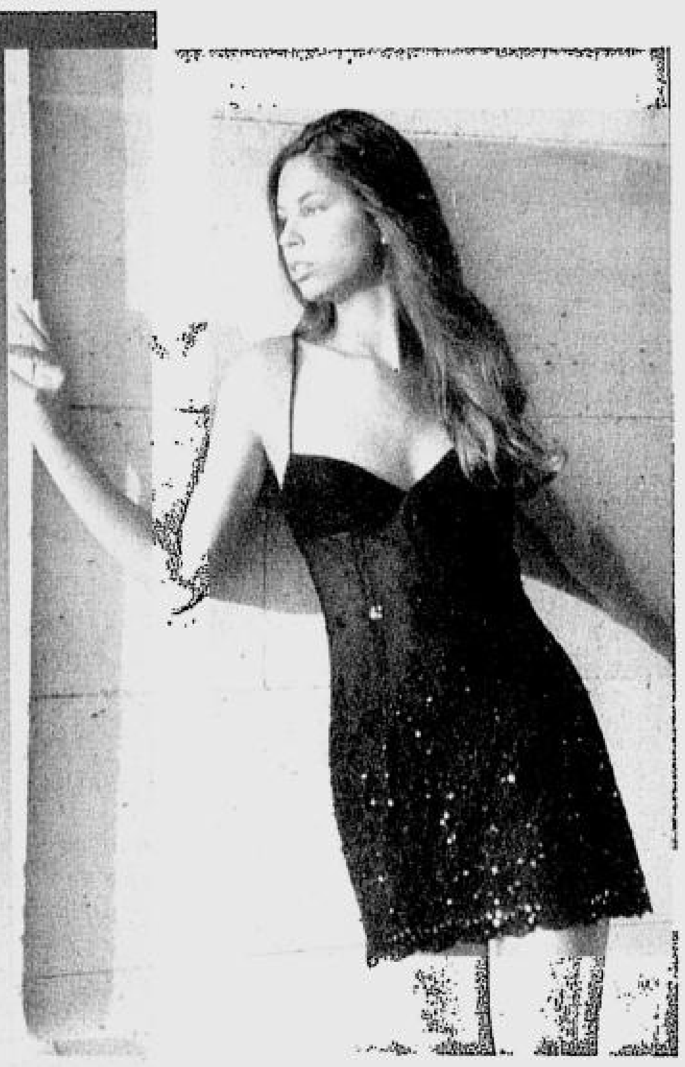


AT THE PYRAMIDE du Louvre, designed by famous architect I.M. Pei. Detail shot of the crisscross back below





Paris when it sizzles



THE LITTLE black dress made of lace with spaghetti straps and crushed bodice. The Eiffel Tower is in the background (left).

AT THE PONT Alexandre in a rayon jersey off-shoulder blouse with black and gold lace miniskirt

IN A BLACK blazer, beaded chiffon camisole and short orange crepe skirt at the Arc de Triomphe. Up close, below left

From page F1

But the designer remains faithful to his creative leanings. "The clothes have a new twist but they're still very wearable," he says. Ocampo is well known for putting ease and wearability to his clothes above frivolous ostentation.

This time, in almost uncharacteristic fashion, he allows for ornamentation. But it's light and sparse—just the right amount of adornment that's still typically Ocampo.

Tops and hemlines are sprinkled with beads; skirts are similarly fringe-beaded. Necklines are cut low, while sleeves are almost nonexistent. He bares shoulders; backs are exposed. Hemlines boldly graze the thighs. The results are thoroughly sensual, with the drama of black fabric and the glitter of embellishment against the rich earthiness of olive skin.

If there's any doubt this collection would appeal to his loyal SM Boutique Square clients, Ocampo is unruffled. "It's not for everyone," he says matter-of-factly. "You have to have the right body and the right attitude." Or the will to work for the right body and the right attitude.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

PHOTOS: SEPPO SUOMELA
MODEL: GWENAEL RUAIS
MAKEUP: MALOU RAMOS
STYLING: SUSAN CHANOT
SHOES: JOEY ENRIQUEZ OF FIGLIA COUTURE
CLOTHES AVAILABLE AT SM BOUTIQUE SQUARE

IN A BEADED chiffon bias dress at the Place de la Concorde (center photo). A closer look at right photo

GIACOMO Nicastro of the Italian Trade Commission; Anton Huang, executive vice president of Stores Specialists Inc.; Jose Miguel Cortes, economic and commercial councilor of Spanish Embassy; Elizabeth Quiambao, general manager of Stores Specialists Inc.; Marta Ferreira-Sopena, franchise coordinator of Springfield; Cristina Diaz-Armas, international visual merchandising manager of Springfield; and Mme. Cortes

THE TOAST! Consul Rolando Zosa of Honduras; Consul Mellie Ablaza of Guatemala; Consul General Fausto Preysler Jr. of Costa Rica; DFA Chief of Protocol, ambassador Jose Abeto Zaide; Consul General Antonio Olbes of Nicaragua and Consul Patrick Parsons of Panama

Consuls' conspiracy, RJ's blast, and Spanish fashion house's 'Ola!'

RICO Tantoco and Ambassador Bienvenido R. Tantoco Sr.

FIVE super popular honorary consuls of five bustling countries of Central America held a joint National Day celebration of the countries they represent by hosting a swinging cocktail reception at the Manila Golf and Country Club in Forbes Park.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on **Kodak Max**

Hosting the cocktails,*palanggas,* were Honorary Consul General **Fausto R. Preysler Jr.** of the Republic of Costa Rica, Honorary Consul **Amelia R. Ablaza** of the Republic of Guatemala, Honorary Consul **Rolando M. Zosa** of the Republic of Honduras, Honorary Consul General **Antonio O. Olbes** of the Republic of Nicaragua and Honorary Consul **Patrick C. Parsons** of the Republic of Panama. Proposing the toast in their honor was **Jose Abeto Zaide**, chief of protocol of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Having cocktails that early in the afternoon (at 5 p.m.) surely got many from the chi-chi diplomatic pack partying. One lady told her pal, "I know I've had one too many already." "Why, do you feel sick?" her friend asked.

"Oh no, it's just that I feel *so* sophisticated and I can't even pronounce it," she answered with a slur, natch! Don't you just love her!

Anyway, Zaide's wife, **Victoria**, had a great time. So did **Marciano R. de Borja**, the director of the Mexico and Central America division of the DFA. Also enjoying the party were Justice **Consuelo Ynares Santiago**, Justice **Angelina Gutierrez**, Ambassador **Enrique Hubbard**, Ambassador **Carmen Lynam**, Ambassador **Milena Ramirez**, Ambassador **Alonso Medina** and Mme. **Lilia Mercedes Medina**, Ambassador **Enrique Syquia**, **Louie Ablaza**, Consul **Fortune Ledesma**, Consul **Helen Ong**, Consul **Evie Cos-**

CONSULS'/F4

JUSTICE Consuelo Santiago with Justice Angelina Gutierrez, Marc Thomas Ablaza, Consul Mellie Ablaza of Guatemala, Consul Helen Ong of Belize and Louie Ablaza

VIVACIOUS Esther Lee Sahlee with Toni Parsons, Argentinian Ambassador Mario Schuff and Consul Fortune Ledesma of Monaco

SEÑORA Lilia Mercedes Medina and Cuban Ambassador Ramon Alonso Medina

RELLY Liwag

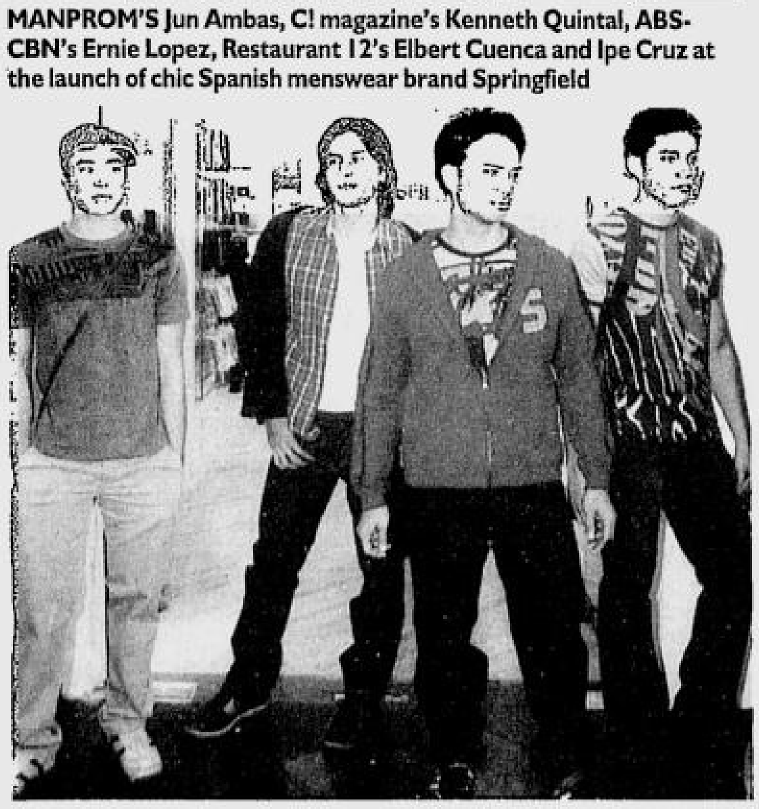
JIA Estrella of Stores Specialists

SOUTHERN lady Odette Lacson Huang and Mel Liwag of Equitable PCI Bank

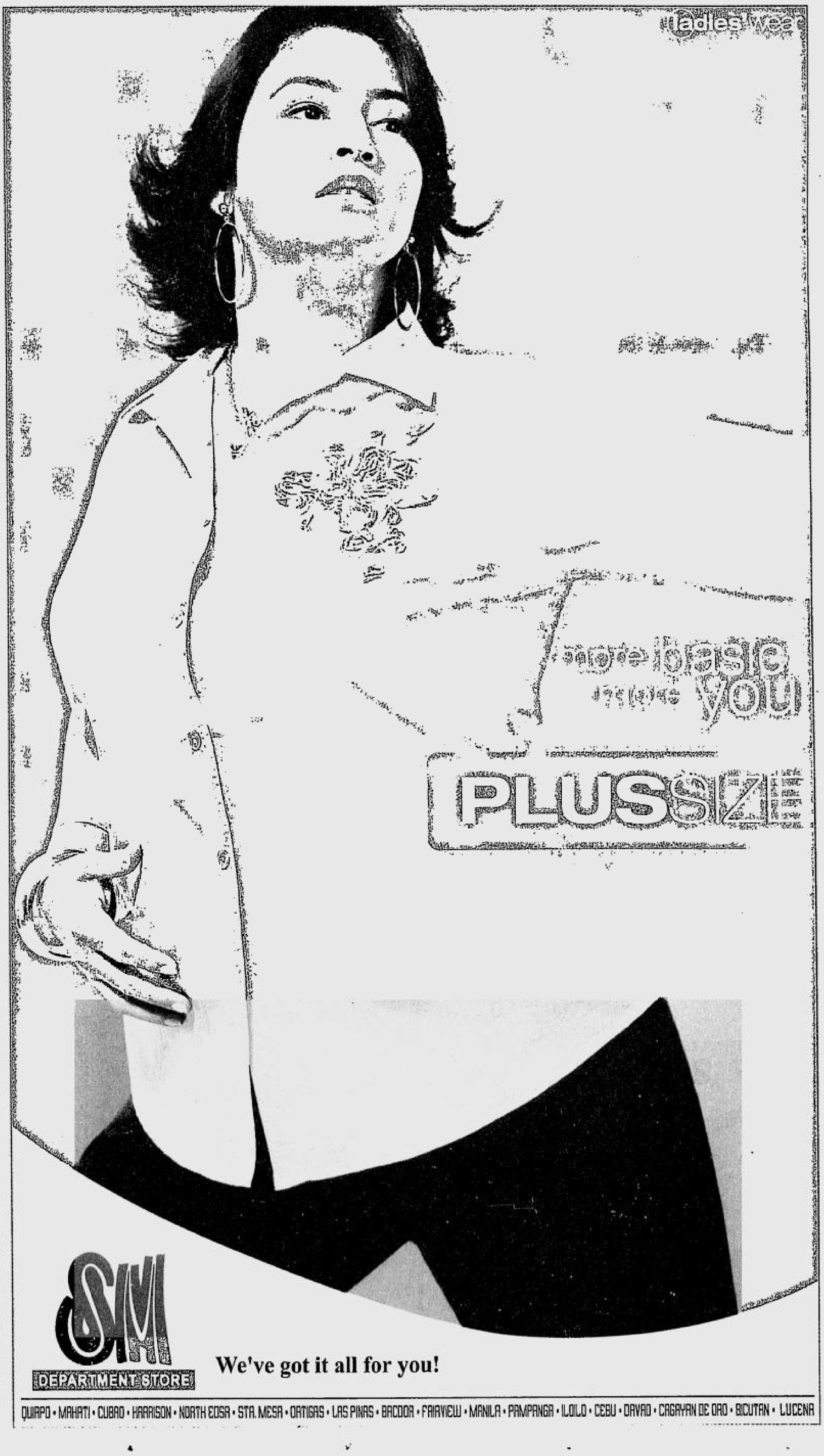
CARMINA Javier of Stores Specialists Inc. and Bubbles Aguilar

CJ Jesena, senior division manager of Ayala Land

MANPROM'S Jun Ambas, C! magazine's Kenneth Quintal, ABS-CBN's Ernie Lopez, Restaurant 12's Elbert Cuenca and Ipe Cruz at the launch of chic Spanish menswear brand Springfield



MALE models sporting the latest Springfield wear



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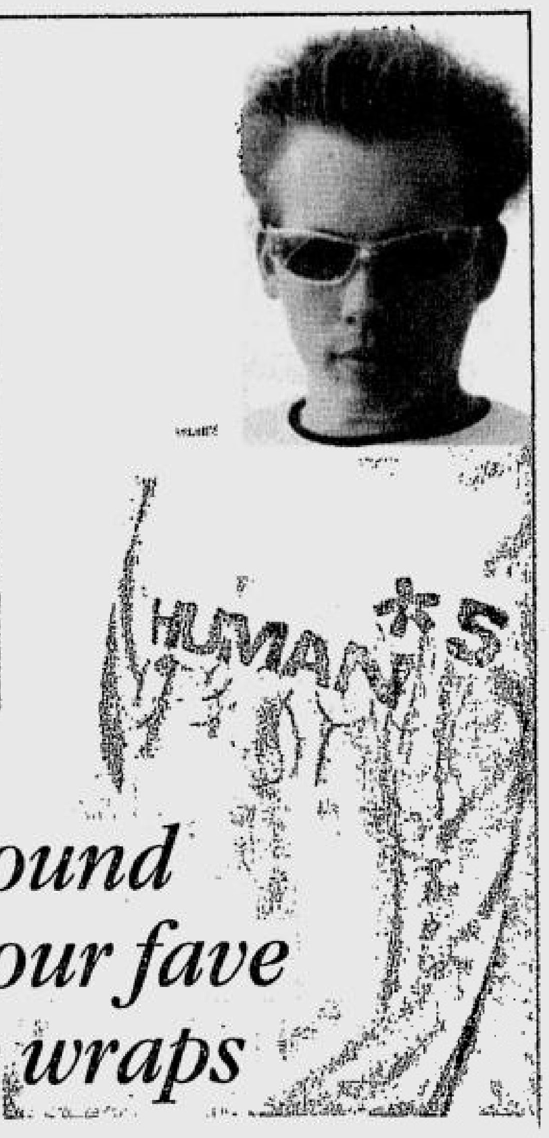
JAZZED-UP short-sleeved white shirt with funky front frills (left); another version, this time in black (right)



SPORTY jacket with "Faithful" stitched in front

Swing around London in your fave alternative wraps

THAT funky alternative clothing brand, Human, is definitely going places. Aside from a Parisian trip—most likely in the suitcases of pretty endorser KC Concepcion—Human has been spotted in London as well.

Perhaps it's because the weather in England's premiere city is relatively warm and dry these days. London denizens are out on a prowl, enjoying the city's very active and cosmopolitan lifestyle.

Of course, when wandering around these famous English streets, you'd have to look fashionably comfy. London, after all, is one of the world's fashion capitals.

That's why Human shirts fit in so well in this metropolis. Be it the funky, frilled button downs or the long-sleeved plain cotton tee, a sporty jacket (with "Faithful" emblazoned on the front) or a grunge-inspired jacket, Human finds a comfy place in old London town.

SHOT ON LOCATION IN LONDON, ENGLAND
MODEL: SCOTT PERRY OF AMEN
STYLED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY KEREN PASCUAL

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with 3 BOXES in a BUNDLE (3x200 gms.)

Hurry! Limited supply only.

Suggested retail price :
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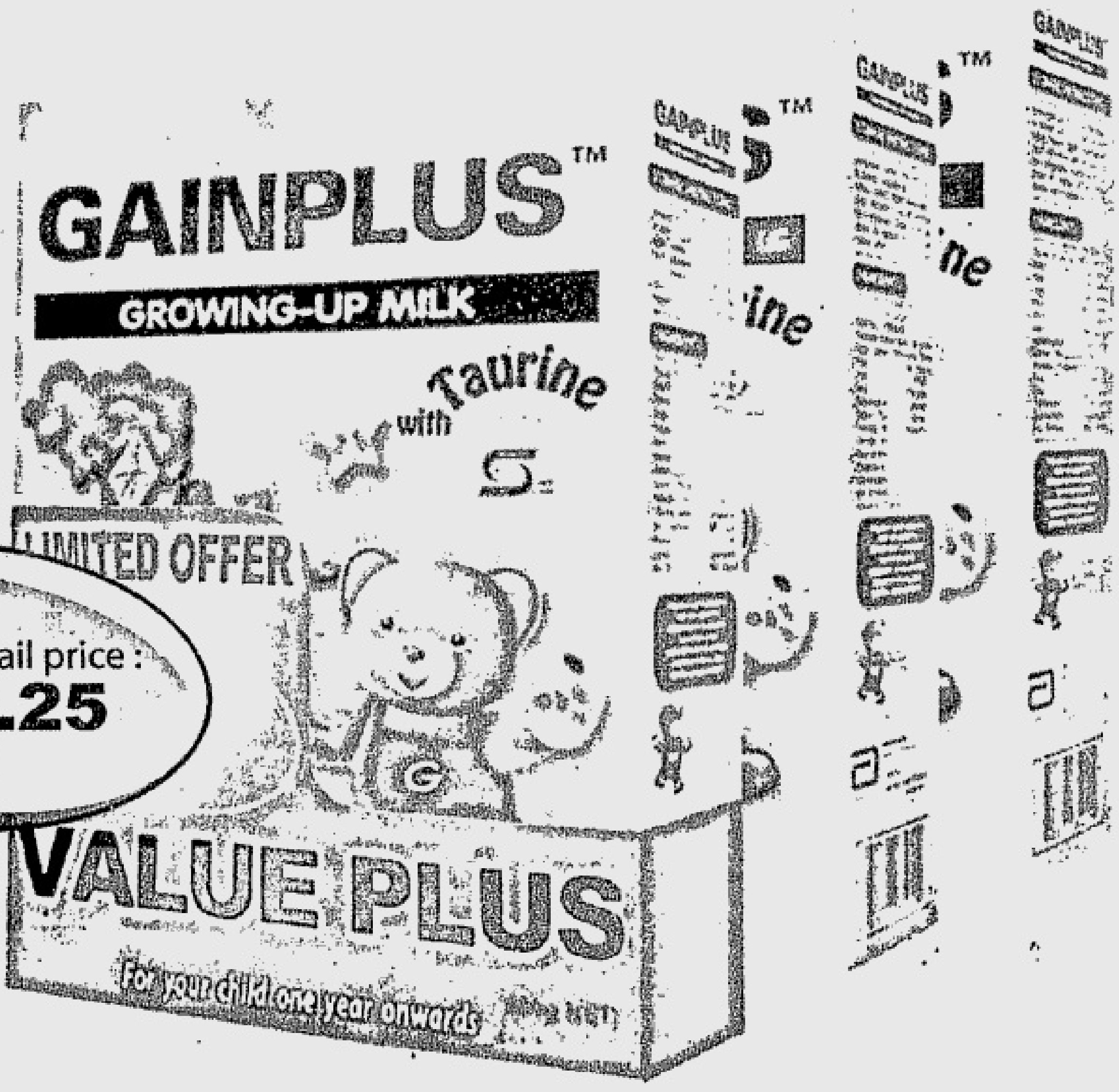

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Consuls' conspiracy . . .

From page F3

ta, Marc Ablaza, Sito Aldana, *my palangga* **Ethel Timbol**, *mi amiga* **Bambi Harper**, and several others.

Nene's day

Every birthday is always a milestone, especially if the celebrator is one of Cosmo Manille's renowned civic-oriented socialites—**Nene S. Leonor**, no less, *palanggas*. Her pals honored her with a rousing luncheon.

Super hosts were the adorable **Marietta Santos** and **Fe Rodriguez**, Nene's fashionable sister. The party was at the top-of-the-line Shang Palace of the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati, natch!

But it didn't end there. Before you could bat an eyelash, another affair with the lunch-bunch was held at the Nielsen's of Manila Peninsula Hotel, this time hosted by **Margaret Lim-Kwok**.

The celebration culminated in a surprise dinner party given by Nene's children in their residence.

Nene Leonor couldn't say enough how grateful and happy she was to her pals and relatives for spending the special occasion with her.

RJ rocks

What started out as a 17-year-old boy's burning passion for rock 'n roll has turned into a legacy for many Filipino music lovers.

Today, 40 years after the founding of DZRJ by businessman-musician **Ramon "RJ" Jacinto**, the station remains a formidable force in Philippine music. What was then the "Teen Station that Serves the Teen Nation" now carries "The Greatest and the Latest" battlecry, *palanggas*.

As for RJ Jacinto, the man who started it all, he is now riding the tidal wave that he created. He has in fact set a huge reunion bash of some of the country's greatest performers.

"DZRJ's 40th: The Grand Reunion" promises to connect generations by bringing together artists from across the decades. The grand show is presented by Globe Handyphone.

All set for tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, "DZRJ's 40th: The Grand Reunion" will have the soothing ballads of **Jose Mari Chan**, back-to-back with the rock acrobatics of **Joey "Pepe" Smith**, the high-energy performance of the Rage Band, and the naughty-rap-naughty-fun songs of **Andrew E.**

Asia's Queen of Songs **Pilita Corrales**, no less, will do a switcheroo with Pinoy rock queen **Sampaguita**, herself, a number that is expected to bring the house down.

The biggest bands from the biggest decades will sing their signature numbers: RJ and the Riots for the '60s, Hotdog and Boyfriends for the '70s, Pido and Take 1 for the '80s, **Andrew E.** for the '90s, and Barbie's Cradle and Moonstar 88 for the new millennium.

Numbers to watch out for are those of the fab **Elizabeth Ramsey** and her daughter **Jaya**, RJ Jacinto, and the two Elvis Presleys of the Philippines—**Edgar Opida** and **Boy Sanchez**.

Completing the line-up of 29 bands and solo performers are hot-hot namedroppables such as **Mitch Valdez, Janet Basco, Louie Heredia, Ernie Delgado** of the Electromaniacs, Asin, Aegis, Moonstrucks, Cowboy, and Father and Sons.

Also helping out beautifully for this giant gig is the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Springfield opens

We have brands from almost all over Europe and the US, but now we finally have a super Spanish brand invading Cosmo Manille's male fashion scene like a charging bull: Springfield has opened at Greenbelt 3.

Springfield is the fab menswear brand that has become every Spanish male's favorite one-stop clothing source.

The Springfield fashion show brought in a balanced combination of looks—from dressy key pieces to casual throw-ons and hip party clothes. A concept allowing loads of European men to feel-good dressing without bursting their pants wallet pockets!

Young, hip shakers and achievers **Anton, Mike** and **Catherine Tantoco Huang** are behind Springfield; they are revolutionizing their famille's business empire, which was superbly represented by their mom, **Nedy Tantoco**, president of Store Specialists Inc., the franchise owners of Springfield and many other high-end brands.

The eye-catching opening number had women ogling and the more mature ones gasping when Alaska basketball team's tall **Rob Duat**, good-looking TV host **Paolo Trillo** and sexy R&B singer **Jay R** modeled Springfield's three looks.

More wow and wild applause were elicited when three handsome male models walked onstage, garbed in Springfield's cool underwear line, and started dressing up in front of the world, putting on Springfield's different great-wear looks.

El simpatico **Jose Miguel Cortes**, cultural and economic counselor of the Spanish Embassy, brought his nice famille along. He helped SSI's general manager **Elizabeth Quiambao** and marketing communications manager **Malu Francisco** entertain Springfield's attractive representatives, such as **Marta Ferreiro Sopena** and **Cristina Diaz Armas**, who jetted in from Madrid for this happening

Even hot names from the foreign press loved the clothes and enjoyed the yummy food catered by **Gaita Fores' Cibo** and the one-of-a-kind Ralph's Wines and Spirits.

Well-loved and respected Ambassador **Bienvenido Tantoco Sr.** led the Tantoco royals, with son **Rico** and grandson **Michael** buying several shirts themselves. No freebies even for them, *palanggas*, at least not during the opening night.

Smiling like a toothpaste ad were young mover **Javi Hernandez** and Mr. Charmer himself, **CJ Jesena**, both of Ayala Land. CJ couldn't decide what to buy. "They are all nice. But where do I begin?" he told me laughingly. The creative genius and massive network of **Jackie Aquino**, the evening's producer, helped make the opening a smashing success.

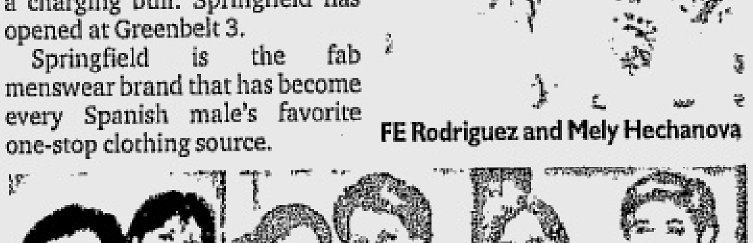
"So, where are the pretty señoritas from Madrid?" I asked Anton Huang. "Oh, they preferred to go out with the male models than with the Rustan gang," he replied.

Seeing those handsome male dudes, I don't blame the gals.

And who was the mature-ish socialite shopping for a good-looking 25-ish young dude after the Springfield show? One thing was for sure ,*palanggas*. She wasn't shopping for her son. Oops!

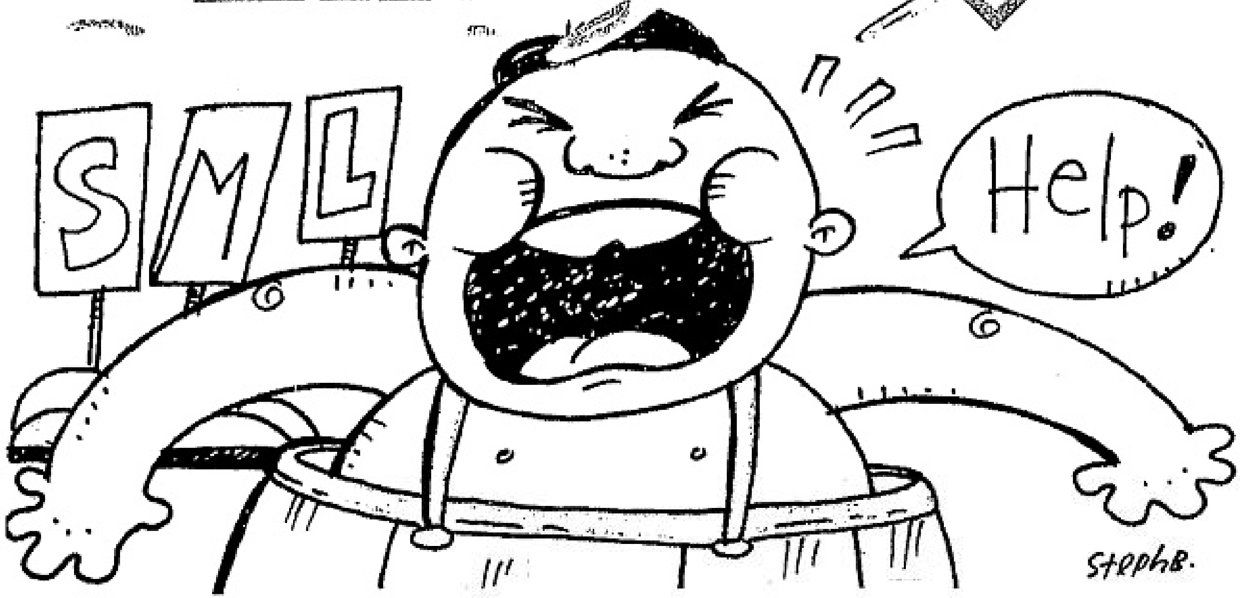
RAMON "RJ" Jacinto, still rockin' at 58 years old

FE Rodriguez and Mely Hechanova



AT THE SHANGRI-LA'S Shang Palace: Justa Tantoco, Fortune Ledesma, Meldy Cojuangco, birthday celebrator Nene Leonor, Chit Gohu and Chit Salud

FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 24, 2003
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIR
G1
LIFESTY
Trend Spotting



The fat market is a big market

LIKE a voice coming from the fashionista wilderness, this plea keeps coming back so may I echo it for the countless, voiceless bodies out there—why aren't there enough clothes and styles for imperfect figures?

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

"We are and will never be a waif," said one guy who's been egging me on to speak up again on behalf of the plus-size men and women out there.

Since I first wrote about it a year ago, I've been requested incessantly to drive home the point again by guys, women, gays of various ages.

"Like I was ready to buy this Zegna but as usual they don't have my size—again," a banker, who's usually suited in this high-fashion brand, told me of his frustration, not so much with his 40-inch waistline as with what's on the market.

I've run into 30-something women, for instance, who love the styles at Mango but unfortunately can't get into them. They find the sizes small, usually tight at the armholes or at the waist.

"Don't they know that the fat market is a big market?" said another frustrated clothes shopper. "Why does fashion retail continue to be in denial of that?"

Yeah, when will designers and retailers wake up to the fact that there's only one Kate Moss?

The banker put it graphically: "One's waistline is in direct proportion to one's income." In simple terms: the bigger the tummy, the bigger the income.

Of course, no marketing or scientific research could ever substantiate that, at least none that I know of. Let's just say that theory was cooked up by my friend out of sheer exasperation with a fashion/style industry that has bypassed or overlooked imperfect bodies like his.

Truth is, the world at large is divided between "apples" and "pears," meaning either the top-heavy, or the bottom-heavy.

It's either thin shoulder line and slim-looking arms but huge hips and tsunami-waved tummy, or log-sized arms and wide chest but narrower hips.

Perfect hour-glass figures are a minority that can afford liposculpture. And within that minority is another minority which, even if it can afford a Vicky Belo, is scared to be cut up or poked into.

Obesity exists, if not getting more pronounced.

Yet, the anatomical landscape being that, the clothes racks out there are nonetheless brimming with tank tops, noodle straps, hip-slung pants or skirts, midrib tops, chemises and corsets—among other waif-inspired fashions.

Meanwhile, those who can't bare flesh—or navel—without risking public flogging must content themselves with boring blazers, loose tees and blouses, and shapeless trousers. Style Siberia.

So what can be done to service the shapeless majority?

Retailers and merchandisers can start pampering the plus-size market, for a change.

"Stock up on medium-to-X-large sizes, or sizes 8-12, even up," said the banker, "even if only in flagship stores."

Designs can be varied and versatile. Designers and retailers should perhaps adjust their radar screens. While majority of the population are young and very young, those with spending power—no, make that impulsive spending power—are men and women in their 30s up.

In fact, unlike the kids and the post-teens, the mature market has to heed more than impulse. This market is upwardly mobile and thus, has to select its wardrobe to build or bolster a career or social image. To it, dressing is all of a tool, an investment, a function, a therapy.

At the end of the day, to this mature market, clothes are also a reward to one's self. Work hard, spend hard. Bad economics but good therapy.

You know what the ready-to-wear designers/merchandisers or retailers can do is somewhat the opposite of what they're doing now. It's like styling in reverse. They can

THE FAT/ G3

Real People. True Stories.

"I used to scuba dive a lot and that made my skin drier and full of freckles. Then Imedeen came along. Now, my skin feels softer with hardly any blemishes!"

Ercka Therese Gutierrez,
30, Full-time housewife and mom

She may no longer be scuba-diving, but Therese -- a dedicated housewife and mother of three -- remains an active, well-rounded woman. Moreover, despite having to keep a happy home while dabbling in interior design and doing make-overs for special events, she's able to maintain a youthful look.

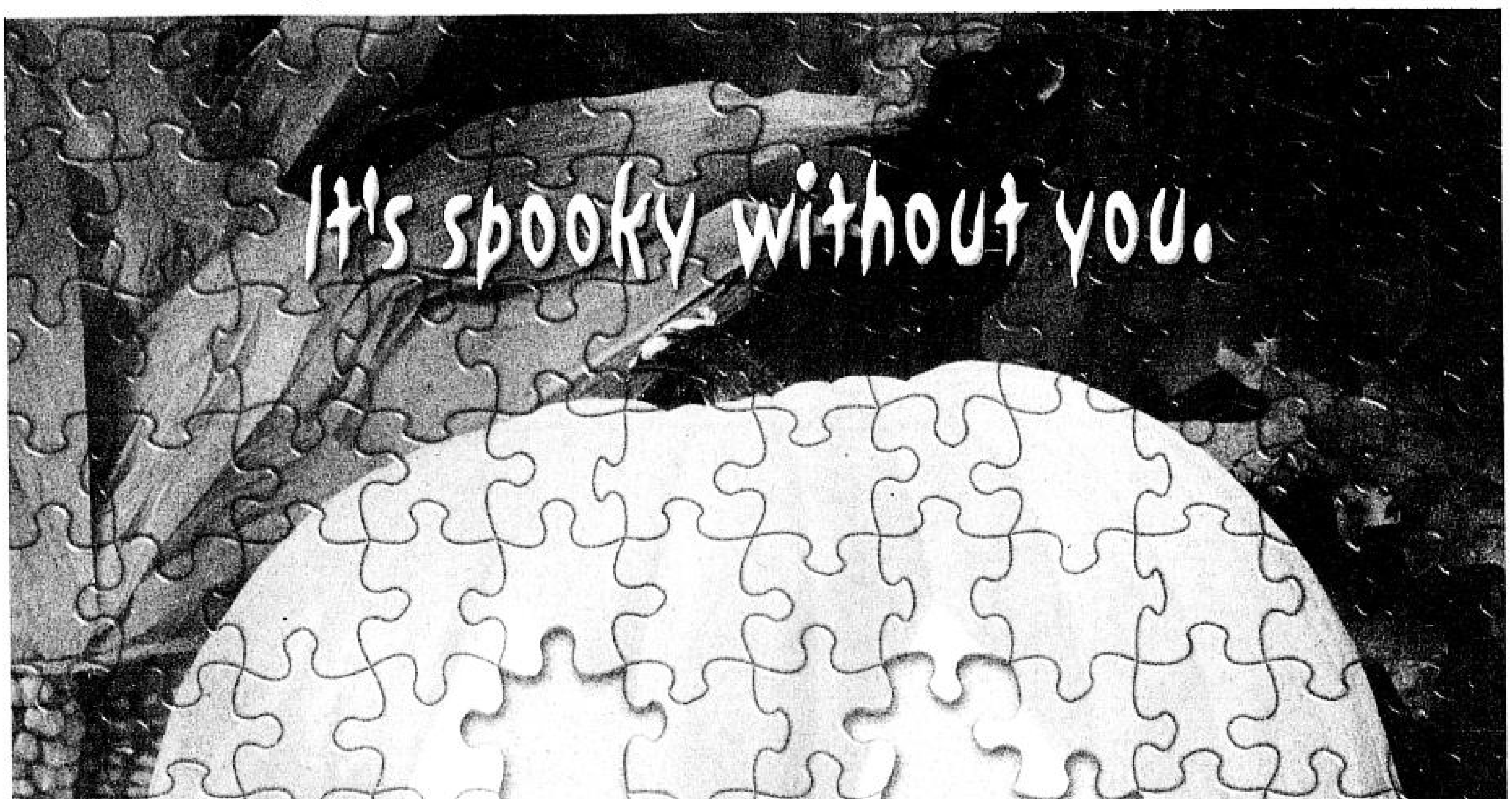
That's because her skincare includes Imedeen.

Imedeen is a skin care tablet that helps your skin bind essential moisture by nourishing its inner layers. "With Imedeen, the effects of being out in the sun and sea were greatly minimized. My skin's moisture balance improved, making it less dry. Even my freckles are hardly visible now!"

And Therese's husband has noticed, constantly complimenting his wife about her refreshing glow. Reveals Therese, "He says I'm even more attractive now and I think it's because I discovered Imedeen." Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.

Ultrasound images of the skin structure: denser structure implies better support and ability to hold moisture

Clinically Proven
IMEDEEN
The Skin Care Tablet



Come to the Shang Halloween Kiddie Party at the Level 2, Grand Atrium.
Have a creepy, crawly good time and win lots of prizes!

Delight in the Halloween fun from October 24-26
- Del Monte Pineapple Juice Drinking Contest - 1pm
- Halloween 'Bring Me' Contest - 1:30pm
- Kiddie Rides
- FREE Halloween Makeover for Kids, Cotton Candy and Halloween Balloons - 2pm - 6pm
- Chips Delight Eating Contest - 3:30pm
- Pass the Pumpkin Contest use your legs, not your hands! - 4pm

Scariest ones win on October 24 & 25
- Spooky Walk - If you walk scary enough, you win! - 4:30pm
- Mummy Wrap - a roll of tissue paper is all you need! - 5pm

Have fun with FunD'Mentals kiddie games on October 25 & 26
- Catch the Bubble Game - one who gets the most using his hands wins! - 2pm
- The Busy Beetle Never Ending Puzzle Game solve and connect the puzzles! - 2:30pm
- Father & Son Creepy 3D Matching Puzzle match as many creepy creatures as you can - 3pm

More Halloween good time comes your way on October 26
- Halloween Fun Time with Ronald McDonald - 1:30pm - 2:00pm
- Color Me Mine Masquerade Boo! Mask Painting Contest Awarding Ceremonies - 4pm

Spook 'em and trick 'em until they give the treats on October 26
- Trick or Treat! Come in your favorite Halloween costume - 4:30pm - 5:30pm, with pre-registration* from October 24-26, 1:30pm - 4:30pm

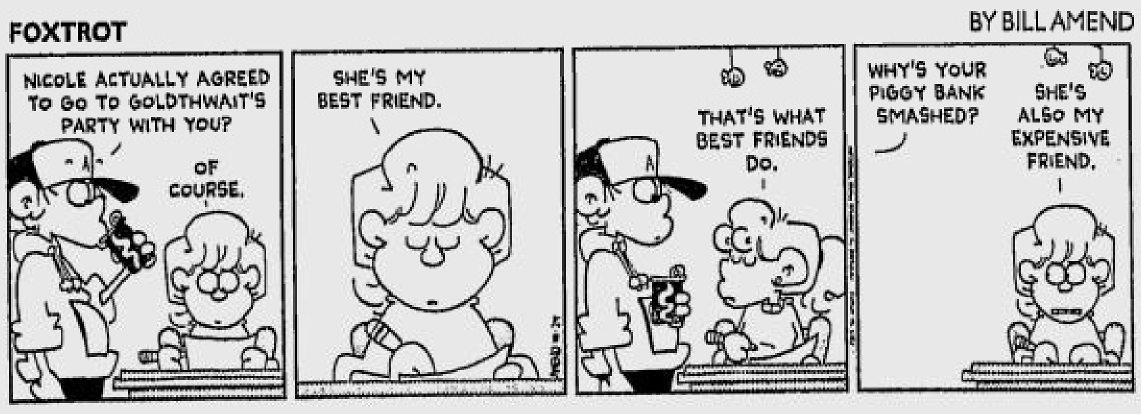
* Non-refundable registration fee of P150.00/kid. Only 250 kids can be accommodated. First come, first served basis. See posters and flyers for details.

Gingersnaps
Sacred Heart School
Smileys
Chips Delight

Shangri-La Plaza
Life's a thrill!

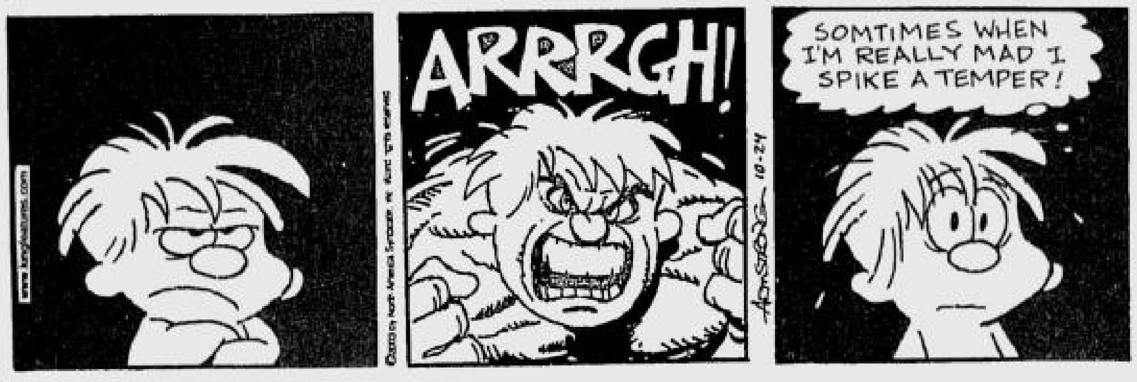
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


NICOLE ACTUALLY AGREED TO GO TO GOLDTHWAIT'S PARTY WITH YOU?
OF COURSE.
SHE'S MY BEST FRIEND.
THAT'S WHAT BEST FRIENDS DO.
WHY'S YOUR PIGGY BANK SMASHED?
SHE'S ALSO MY EXPENSIVE FRIEND.

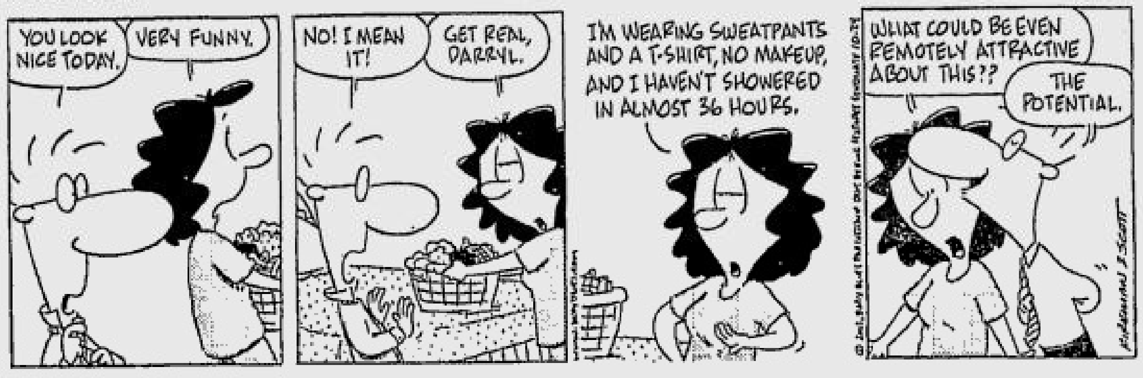
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


ARRRGH!
SOMTIMES WHEN I'M REALLY MAD I SPIKE A TEMPER!
ARMSTRONG 10-24

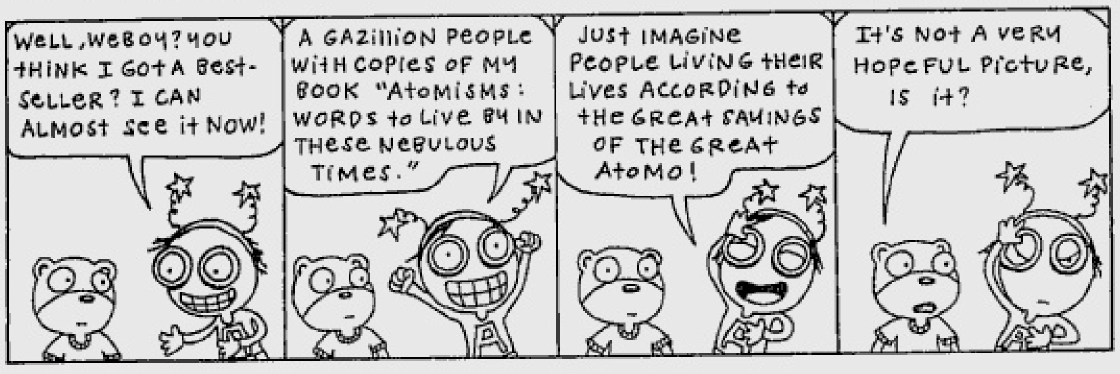
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU LOOK NICE TODAY.
VERY FUNNY.
NO! I MEAN IT!
GET REAL, DARRYL.
I'M WEARING SWEATPANTS AND A T-SHIRT, NO MAKEUP, AND I HAVEN'T SHOWERED IN ALMOST 36 HOURS.
WHAT COULD BE EVEN REMOTELY ATTRACTIVE ABOUT THIS??
THE POTENTIAL.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WELL, WEBOY? YOU THINK I GOT A BEST-SELLER? I CAN ALMOST SEE IT NOW!
A GAZILLION PEOPLE WITH COPIES OF MY BOOK "ATOMISMS: WORDS TO LIVE BY IN THESE NEBULOUS TIMES."
JUST IMAGINE PEOPLE LIVING THEIR LIVES ACCORDING TO THE GREAT SAYINGS OF THE GREAT ATOMO!
IT'S NOT A VERY HOPEFUL PICTURE, IS IT?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are intense to the point of perfection. Whatever you do, you do with dramatic flair. You give painstaking attention to detail. For you, life is exciting, flamboyant, humorous and yet serious. Others are intrigued by your contradictions. Your life will come to a crossroads this year, necessitating an important choice.

Birthdate of: BD Wong, actor; Kevin Kline, actor; The Big Bopper, rock 'n' roll singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good time to look inward and reflect upon deep truths within yourself. You can use this time to get in touch with your hidden self.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): In the next few weeks, you'll have many opportunities to clarify and explain issues to partners and close friends. This is the time to discuss difficulties in your relationships.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your ability to do detailed mental work is excellent now. It's also a good time now and in the next few weeks to talk to co-workers to sort out problems that exist.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're in the mood.to play practical jokes on others. You feel prankish, playful and like a kid again. Could this be because you're in love?

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Get down to business with renovations, decorating or making important changes to where you live. Similarly, family discussions are important now and in the next few weeks.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your mind is quite excited now. You have places to go, people to see, things to do. This is not a good time to settle down and relax at home. Get out and hustle!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're more concerned than usual with business and commercial affairs. You're also spending money more than usual. Keep your receipts, and keep track of what you're doing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You have a strong urge to talk to others now. (Both the Sun and Mercury are in your sign.) It's an excellent time to communicate your views.

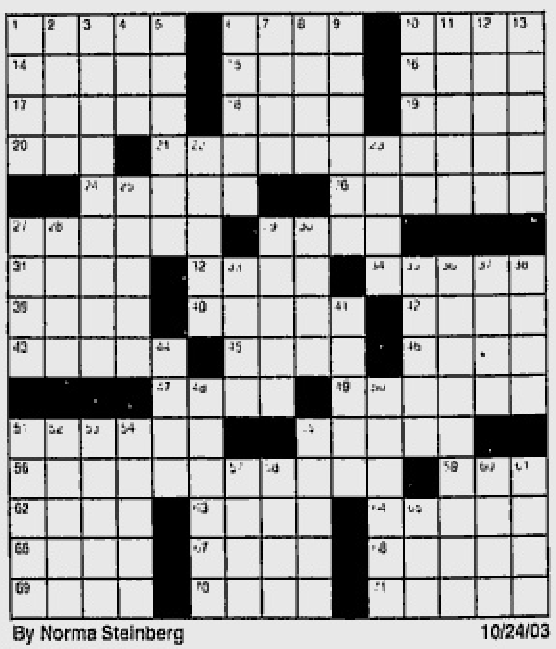
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Research, study and time spent privately will please you now. Don't try to keep up with the gang. Pull back and rest a little.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): If you discuss your hopes and dreams for the future, input from others could be helpful. Don't be afraid to share your ideas with friends. Listen to what they say.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Make plans for your professional life. Think about what you have been doing and whether or not it is working out as you want it to. Maybe you need to make a change.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): The next few weeks are an excellent time for study and education. You want to know more about everything. You want answers to some questions.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

10/24/03

ACROSS
1 Head skin
6 Future figurine
10 Lenient
14 Cringe
15 Luminous ring
16 Baseball's Matty or Moises
17 Texas mission
18 Jacob's twin
19 Smear
20 Merry month?
21 Gap in a chain
24 Surface luster
26 Acts as host
27 Contract stipulation
29 Enlightened
31 Describe
32 Enjoy a book
34 Festive parties
39 Designer Cassini
40 Sharp-eyed bird
42 Batty
43 Tough question
45 Burpee kernel
46 Workplace watchdog grp.
47 Ladies of the flock
49 Cold time
51 Reply
55 Eureka!
56 Our for lunch?
59 E.T. craft
62 Cain's victim
63 Point of soccer
64 Like some kitchens
66 Ring out
67 Wrestler Hogan
68 Worship
69 BPOE members
70 Very pronounced French?
71 Lacoste and Russo

DOWN
1 Con game
2 Soft drink
3 Road dates
4 Moon vehicle's letters
5 PR events
6 Kasparov's game
7 Colleen
8 Kirghiz mountains
9 Brigham and Loretta
10 Weasellike mammal
11 Kukla's pal
12 Source, as of wisdom
13 Istanbul crowd
22 Rhone feeder
23 Actor Kinnear
25 Pitch forward
27 Horse hoof sound
28 "__ & Stitch"
29 Pay
30 Run in neutral
33 Lessen
35 Beside
36 Missed, as an opportunity
37 Yearning
38 Skyrocket
41 Astronomer Hubble
44 Coral formation
48 Frank Lloyd __
50 Interlocking
51 Hanging open
52 International prize
53 Behave furtively
54 Old-time water coolers
55 Swindles
57 Excessively acid
58 Hearty's partner
60 Blaze
61 Fifths of five
65 Summertime cooler

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

T	H	A	W		A	T	R	A		I	D	A	H	O
H	U	L	A		R	H	E	E		O	U	T	E	R
A	G	E	I	S	M	I	N	D		U	B	O	A	T
R	H	E	T	T		R	E	I	N		U	M	P	S
			E	O	N	S		L	O	A	F			
O	V	E	R	M	A	T	T	E	R	I	F	Y	O	U
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N	E	O	N	S			I	O	N	S		O	T	T
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			B	E	A	R		E	T	R	E			
S	C	A	B		C	O	N	S		I	N	E	R	T
L	A	B	E	L		N	O	T	M	A	T	T	E	R
O	P	E	R	A		E	L	L	A		A	N	N	O
P	O	L	Y	P		D	A	Y	S		L	A	D	Y

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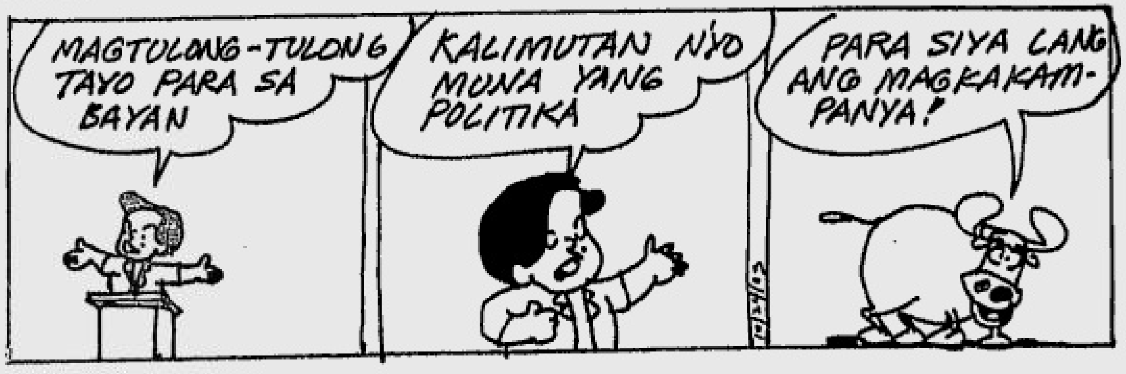
10/24/03

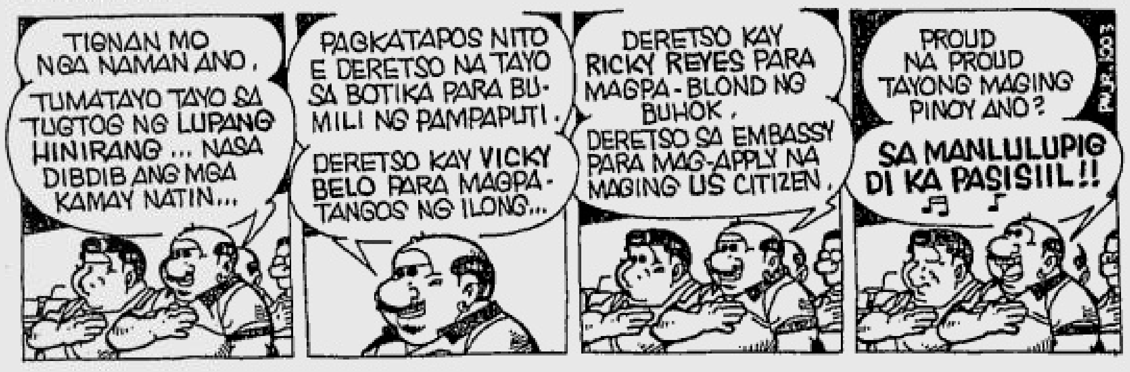
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAGTULONG-TULONG TAYO PARA SA BAYAN
KALIMUTAN N'YO MUNA YANG POLITIKA
PARA SIYA LANG ANG MAGKAKAMPANYA!

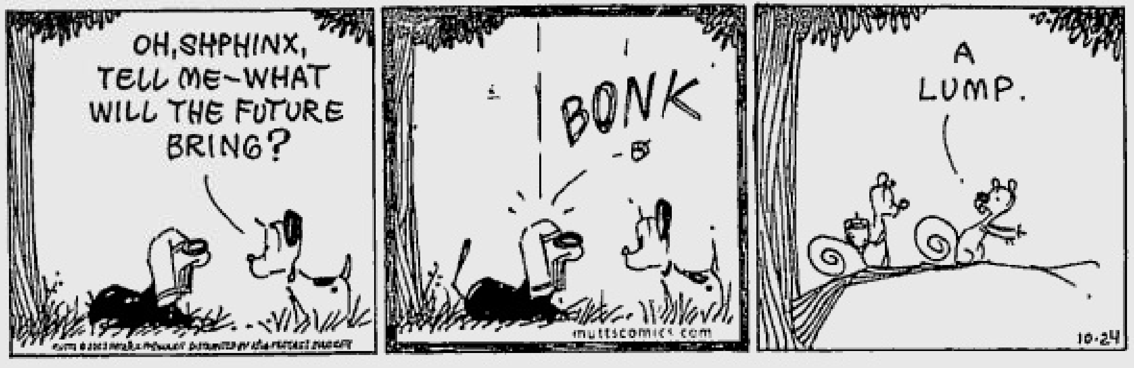
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TIGNAN MO NGA NAMAN ANO.
TUMATAYO TAYO SA TUGTOG NG LUPANG HINIRANG ... NASA DIBDIB ANG MGA KAMAY NATIN...
PAGKATAPOS NITO E DERETSO NA TAYO SA BOTIKA PARA BUMILI NG PAMPAPUTI.
DERETSO KAY VICKY BELO PARA MAGPATANGOS NG ILONG...
DERETSO KAY RICKY REYES PARA MAGPA-BLOND NG BUHOK.
DERETSO SA EMBASSY PARA MAG-APPLY NA MAGING US CITIZEN.
PROUD NA PROUD TAYONG MAGING PINOY ANO?
SA MANLULUPIG DI KA PASISIIL!!
PM JR. 2003

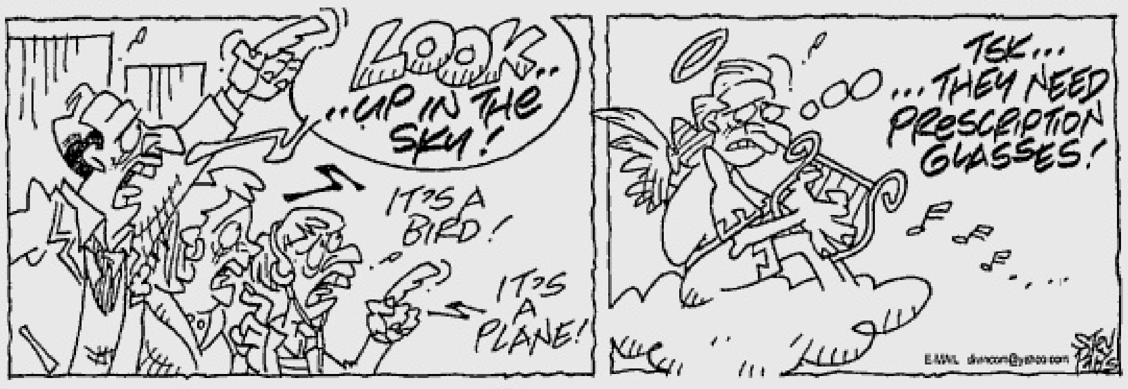
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, SHPHINX, TELL ME–WHAT WILL THE FUTURE BRING?
BONK
A LUMP.
muttscomics.com
10-24

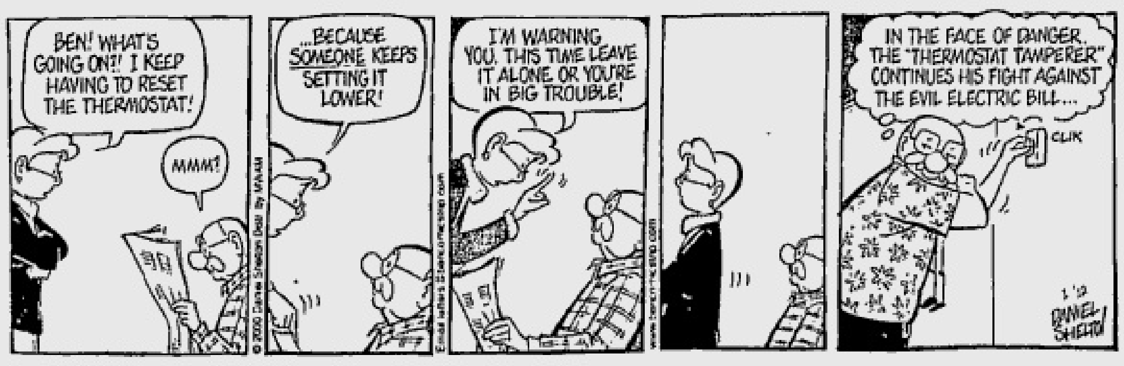
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


LOOK... ...UP IN THE SKY!
IT'S A BIRD!
IT'S A PLANE!
TSK... OOO... THEY NEED PRESCRIPTION GLASSES!

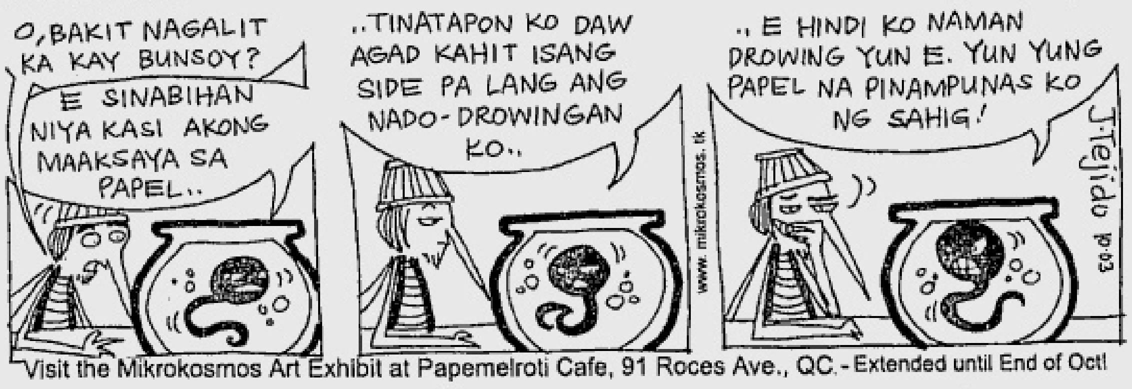
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN! WHAT'S GOING ON?! I KEEP HAVING TO RESET THE THERMOSTAT!
MMM?
...BECAUSE SOMEONE KEEPS SETTING IT LOWER!
I'M WARNING YOU. THIS TIME LEAVE IT ALONE OR YOU'RE IN BIG TROUBLE!
IN THE FACE OF DANGER, THE "THERMOSTAT TAMPERER" CONTINUES HIS FIGHT AGAINST THE EVIL ELECTRIC BILL...
CLIK
DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS

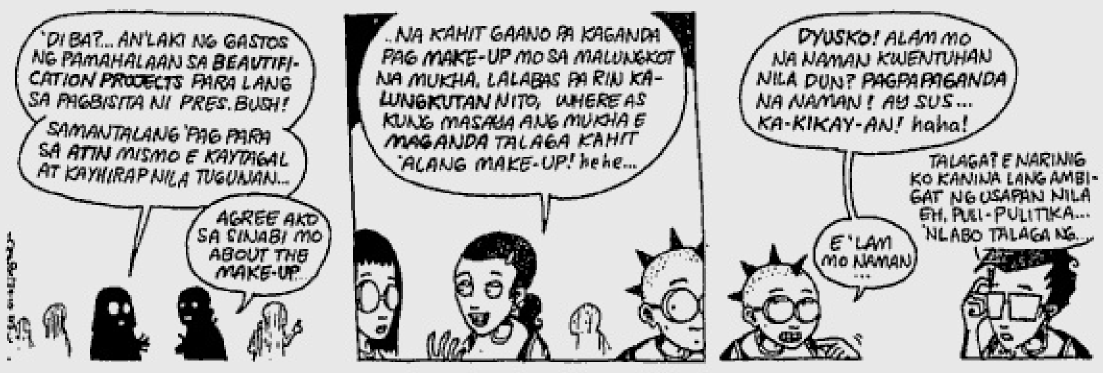
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


O, BAKIT NAGALIT KA KAY BUNSOY?
E SINABIHAN NIYA KASI AKONG MAAKSAYA SA PAPEL..
..TINATAPON KO DAW AGAD KAHIT ISANG SIDE PA LANG ANG NADO-DROWINGAN KO..
.. E HINDI KO NAMAN DROWING YUN E. YUN YUNG PAPEL NA PINAMPUNAS KO NG SAHIG!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J. Tejido 10.03

Visit the Mikrokosmos Art Exhibit at Papemelroti Cafe, 91 Roces Ave., QC.- Extended until End of Oct!

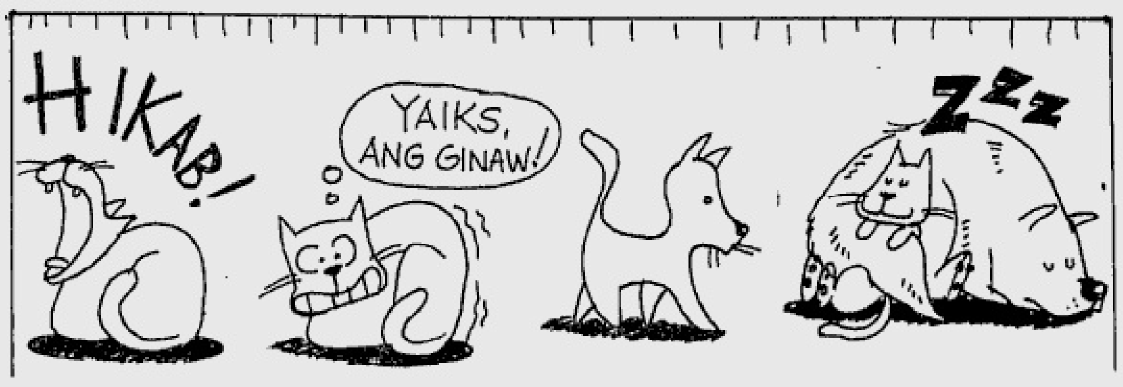
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


'DI BA?... AN'LAKI NG GASTOS NG PAMAHALAAN SA BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS PARA LANG SA PAGBISITA NI PRES. BUSH!
SAMANTALANG 'PAG PARA SA ATIN MISMO E KAYTAGAL AT KAYHIRAP NILA TUGUNAN...
AGREE AKO SA SINABI MO ABOUT THE MAKE-UP.
..NA KAHIT GAANO PA KAGANDA PAG MAKE-UP MO SA MALUNGKOT NA MUKHA, LALABAS PA RIN KALUNGKUTAN NITO, WHERE AS KUNG MASAYA ANG MUKHA E MAGANDA TALAGA KAHIT 'ALANG MAKE-UP! hehe...
DYUSKO! ALAM MO NA NAMAN KWENTUHAN NILA DUN? PAGPAPAGANDA NA NAMAN! AY SUS... KA-KIKAY-AN! haha!
E' LAM MO NAMAN...
TALAGA? E NARINIG KO KANINA LANG AMBIGAT NG USAPAN NILA EH. PULI-PULITIKA... 'NLABO TALAGA NG...

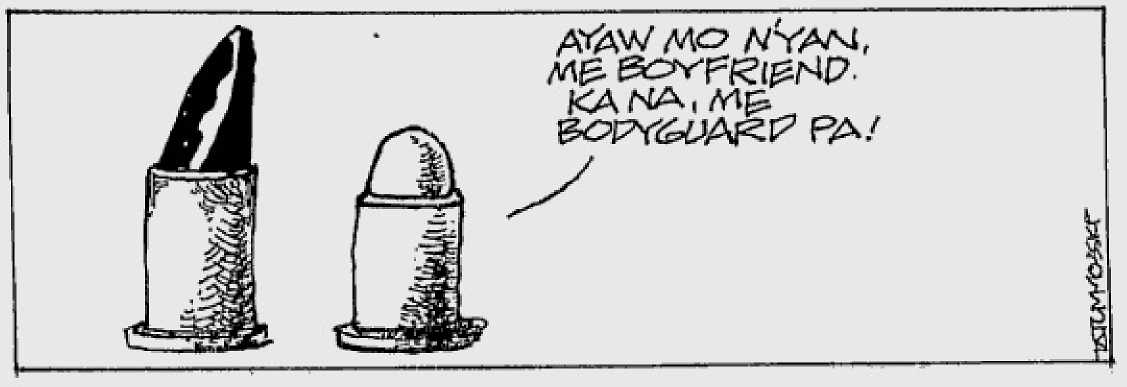
FURRY LOGIC

BY SUZIE AND CALVIN


HIKAB!
YAIKS, ANG GINAW!
ZZZ

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


AYAW MO N'YAN, ME BOYFRIEND KA NA, ME BODYGUARD PA!

The fat market is a big market

From page G1

have a pattern or mannequin shaped according to the most common body flaws of the Filipina—that should be "*puson* galore"—and churn out styles that mask that.

If the retail market continues to be in denial of the real—I mean real—body figures out there, the era of ready-to-wear, unchallenged for the longest time now, might be superseded by the emergence of a middle-class market that will go to affordable designers who will design made-to-order clothes.

By affordable, I mean P1,500 up— which, if you think of it, is the range of RTW.

In fact, the designer RTW is four times more expensive than that, at least.

Our mothers and grandmothers grew up with the neighborhood *modista*. The return of the *modista* era might not be that farfetched, thanks not really to market realities, but diet realities.

Good girls eat desserts, you know.

Randy does Dolphy

Randy Ortiz, who dressed up **Dolphy** for the huge ABS-CBN 50th year extravaganza last Friday, was both impressed with and overwhelmed at the comedian who's a known clotheshorse.

Randy said Dolphy really knew his tailoring (he had a tailor shop, after all, for many years). Dolphy was fashion-forward enough to try a Mao jacket (in off-white) paired with duotoned pants. Indeed, the comedy king—to be a groom soon (to Zsa Zsa, of course)—looked so dapper.

And so did **Tito, Vic** and **Joey** in their black suits, during their perhaps once-in-a-lifetime performance with Dolphy. Randy also suited up the three.

Rusty opens bridal shop

Rusty Lopez has just opened a shop of bridal gowns. Not Rusty Lopez the brand, but Rusty the person, the designer from the '70s who pioneered in ready-to-wear. Rusty himself designs the wedding gowns in his store in BF Parañaque.

Impy holds charity auction

Impy Pilapil holds her exhibit/auction tonight of glass sculptures at Manila Peninsula. The auction is a benefit for PGH organized by the head of UP-PGH Foundation, Dr. Greg Alvior.

Retired here after 30 years of practice in Manhattan, Dr. Alvior is devoting his time to helping his alma mater raise funds. He said that while there are groups to help finance the different sections of PGH, especially the pediatric ward, the hospital as a whole has been overlooked by fundraisers.

Yet it's the one hospital that's really living a hand-to-mouth existence. Impy has agreed to help Dr. Alvior in this project.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

Floriculture congress in QC

THE 8TH National Floriculture Congress, under the auspices of the Federation of Cutflower and Ornamental Growers of the Philippines, will be held on Nov. 6-7 at the Convention Hall of BSWM Soil Research and Development Center, corner Elliptical Road and Visayas Avenue, QC.

On Nov. 8, participants will go on a tour to selected flower farms in Batangas.

This year's theme is "Business Discipline for Growth."

As part of the congress, a flower and garden show will be held Nov. 7-16 at Sunken Garden fronting Quezon City Hall.

Invited to formally open the show are Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte and former First Lady Ming Ramos.

Heads of the various working committees are: Cora Purificacion, overall congress chair; Wilhelm Ortaliz, technical program; Efren Chatto, logistics; Rex Puentespina, farm tours; Mable Chua, souvenir program; Baby Spowart, secretariat; Federation president Sally Leuenberger, judging and awards; Tina Lacsan, dinner reception; and Las Piñas Garden Club, registration.

Advanced registration for the seminar is required. Call 9286189, 4534553 or 4560882.

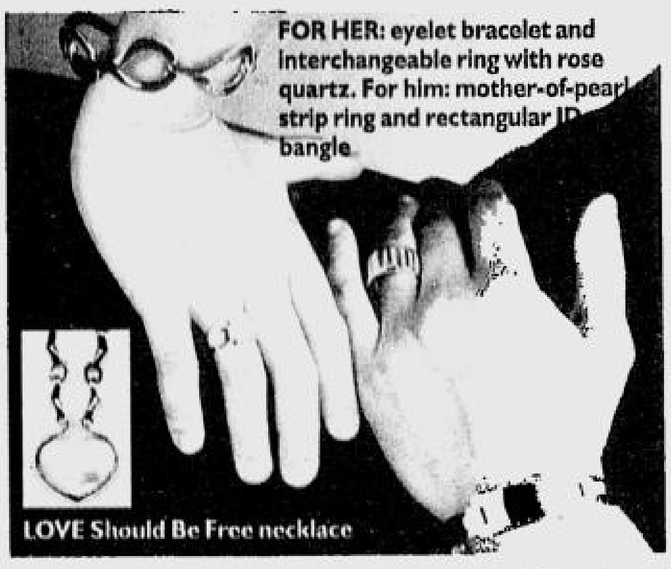
Stunning silver choices

MICHELIS offers dazzling finds to enhance one's unique style and preference at any age. Its exquisitely designed 92.5-percent silver sterling jewelry creatively fuses semiprecious stones such as onyx, rhodolite, agate, citrine, peridot, topaz and amethyst in its necklaces, bracelets and earrings.

Living up to Michelis' modern, dappled look is the Love Should Be Free necklace with mother-ofpearl heart and heart links, and a beautiful pendant with freshwater pearl called Secret Heart.

Love is Passion mother-of-pearl is also a stunning pick, while the bamboo hoop earrings with garnet, amethyst and citrine look radiant.

Call 7516352.



FOR HER: eyelet bracelet and interchangeable ring with rose quartz. For him: mother-of-pearl strip ring and rectangular ID bangle

LOVE Should Be Free necklace

Maagang Pamasko ng South SUPERMARKET

FAMILY HOME SHOWCASE Anniversary Promo

Dining Showcase
Bedroom Showcase
Xmas Showcase
Kitchen Showcase

PROMO MECHANICS

1. Every P 250.00 purchase from any South Supermarket branch from October 24-Nov 30, 2003 entitles you to a raffle coupon. Accumulated receipts from the same branch where you intend to participate are acceptable.

2. Print your name, address, telephone no., And affix signature on the raffle coupon stub and drop it in the tambiolo/dropbox found inside the South Supermarket branch where the purchases were made.

3. Deadline for dropping of entries is Nov. 30, 2003.

4. Raffle draw date, simultaneously in all South Supermarket branches: December 1, 2003, at 2:00 pm. Drawing to be witnessed by DTI Representative.

5. The following prizes will be raffled off per branch:
   a. Kitchen Showcase
   b. Xmas Showcase (Xmas Tree/ Decor/ Lights)
   c. Dining Showcase
   d. Bedroom Showcase
   e. 20 Consolation Prizes: each P 500 worth South Supermarket Gift Certificates

6. A Customer can only win once. In case a customer's entry is draw more than once, customer gets the prize of the higher value. A new entry will be drawn for the prize of lesser value. Customer should participate in only one branch.

7. The Gift Certificates will be valid for one (1) year from date issued. South Supermarket will shoulder the 20% prize tax for prizes exceeding P 10,000.00

8. Winner's will be informed via registered mail as to when to claim prize from the branch where they dropped their entries. Winners must present the registered mail and any valid ID (example: driver's license, SSS, TIN ID, Company ID, etc.) when claiming their prize.

9. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of notice will be forfeited with prior approval of the DTI-NCR.

10. Employees of South Supermarket and its advertising and promotions agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from the promotion.

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 3013 SERIES OF 2003.

Road-testing some skincare winners

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

I MET up with Nikki Tan, managing director of D'Mark Multisales Corporation, recently.

What I found fascinating about this meeting was learning all about skincare and seeing the skincare brands they carried, such as Sebamed, SkinCeuticals and NeoStrata.

What revolutionary facts about skin have we learned in the late 20th century that have changed our lives?

I can't speak for everyone, but I sure keep in mind many of the facts below, and they have changed my beauty routines.

1. **Soap is too harsh for our skin.** A pH balance of 5.5 is the ideal cleanser, because it matches the pH balance of our face. Sebamed pH 5.5 was the company that discovered that.

For my facial cleanser, I tried Sebamed's liquid face and body wash because I find it more portable than a bar of soap. A drop or two is enough to clean the whole face and neck. It removes makeup, except for waterproof eye makeup. I use the Clear Deep Cleansing toner and Care Gel to hydrate and treat acne.

2. **Exfoliation is the key to clear skin.** And it's safe for everyone, from those with dry skin to the acne-prone (except those with very sensitive skin—until now).

It was NeoStrata that discovered AHA technology, which allows for exfoliation without the obvious peeling, and very recently, PHA or PolyHydroxyAcid.

PHA is a third-generation AHA that's coated with a protective liquid capsule. Any irritation won't be felt on the skin's surface, and the benefits are felt quickly. Now, soft, smooth, even-toned skin is possible even for those with sensitive skin.

Sebamed, SkinCeuticals and NeoStrata are at the forefront of research on better products for our skin

SEBAMED Face and Body Wash

My exfoliating product? Bionic Face serum. I use it under sunblock during the day and over Vitamin C cream at night. The serum reduces fine lines and wrinkles.

3. **The newest product I can't live without is a Vitamin C treatment** over my toner at night, and for daytime, under my moisturizer/sunblock. A good example is SkinCeuticals' Topical Vitamin C serum 10.

I especially love Vitamin C because it reverses all skin damage, boosts sun protection and makes my skin glow.

It has also made my skin whiter and my complexion more even, so that now, I can leave the house foundation-free. My skin is dewy without being oily.

SkinCeuticals pioneered the stable L-Ascorbic Acid as a topical skin treatment. This is Vitamin C on your skin at its most concentrated form.

What's the big deal about stable Vitamin C? When the product changes color, it is no longer stable and effectivity is lost.

People who mix Vitamin C tablets with their beauty products will notice that the resulting mixture is a golden yellow at first, then turns amber the next day. The discoloration is a sign that the treatment will no longer work because it is not stable.

To recap my beauty regimen: For day, Sebamed cleanser, Sebamed Deep Care toner, SC Vitamin C serum, Bionic Face serum, my own VMV SPF 45 sunblock.

For night, SM liquid cleanser, SM toner, NS bionic serum, SM Care Gel.

Remember, I have acne-prone skin.

For more information, e-mail d_mark@pacific.net.com.ph for SkinCeuticals and Neostrata or dmark888@info.com.ph for Sebamed.

I can only answer questions about the performance of the products I road-tested for a month and mentioned in this article. Please send any other questions to the Dmark e-mail address above.

SEBAMED Care Gel

SEBAMED Deep Cleansing Toner

SKINCEUTICALS Vitamin C Serum 10

NEOSTRATA Lactobionic Acid 001

APARTMENT FOR RENT
FOR RENT
APARTMENT FOR RENT INQUIRE INSI
FOR RENT
FOR RENT ROOM
For RENT One-Room Apartment w/ T&B
APARTMEN FOR REN
ROOMS for RENT
APARTMENT FOR RENT
HOUSES FOR RENT
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If you must cut trees, do it right

REPORTS have reached this corner that in some places in Ortigas Avenue, particularly the area near De La Salle Greenhills up to Santolan, trees are being thinned or pruned, some to the point where nothing is left but the trunk.

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

Now, trees, like most plants, need to be pruned and thinned out every so often so they can grow healthy. But this must be done properly.

Thinning and pruning until nothing is left but the tree trunk can hardly be called "the proper way," so we hope that whoever is charged with the job knows what he's doing or has the right consultants to guide him.

Needing to do some consulting of our own, we contacted Ernesto "Jun" Alvarez of the Clean and Green Foundation, whose term paper at UP-Los Baños was a study on certain tree species in a dipterocarp forest in Los Baños.

It was considered such an insightful study that it has become a valuable guide to forest and tree maintenance.

In reply to our questions on tree thinning, Alvarez sent us a booklet, "The Clean and Green Primer," published by Ugnayan ng Pahinungo'd-Los Baños, UPLB, Laguna.

The primer is small, all of 177 pages and well-illustrated. It is an instructional book with topics like Proper Waste Management, Urban Greening, and Vegetable Gardening. It is in the Urban Greening section that instructions on proper tree planting and pruning are found.

For instance, the size of a tree must be considered in allotting space when planting it alongside other trees.

Young trees need to be protected so they don't break or bend easily to pressures such as strong winds. This can be done with tree guards or by staking, which are all explained in the primer.

Types of pruning

An important section deals with types of pruning (espalier, cordon training, palmette and pleaching).

> There is a science—even art—to it, if the tree is to benefit from the healing provided by the cutting process

Pleaching, incidentally, is a method of weaving or intertwining branches to form beautiful covered trellises and pergolas.

Then there is the part which deals with cutting methods called "heading back" and "thinning."

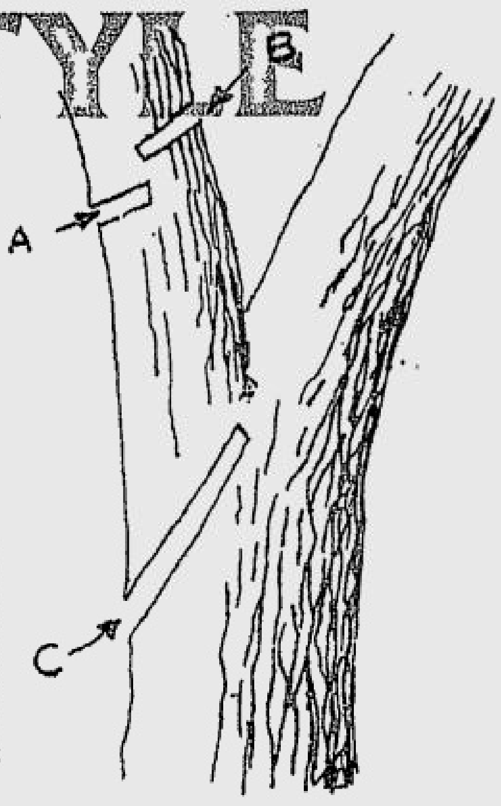
"Heading back" refers to the process of cutting a growing one-year-old shoot back to a bud, or cutting an older branch or stem back to a stub or a tiny twig. This is done by "pinching, tip pruning, shearing and stubbing."

"Thinning" means "removing a branch at its point of origin," or cutting a branch large enough to assure that it will re-grow.

Pruning is necessary when the tree has a "wound" (probably caused by exposure to decay), and, like surgery, may be done with shears or a saw depending on the size of the tree limb.

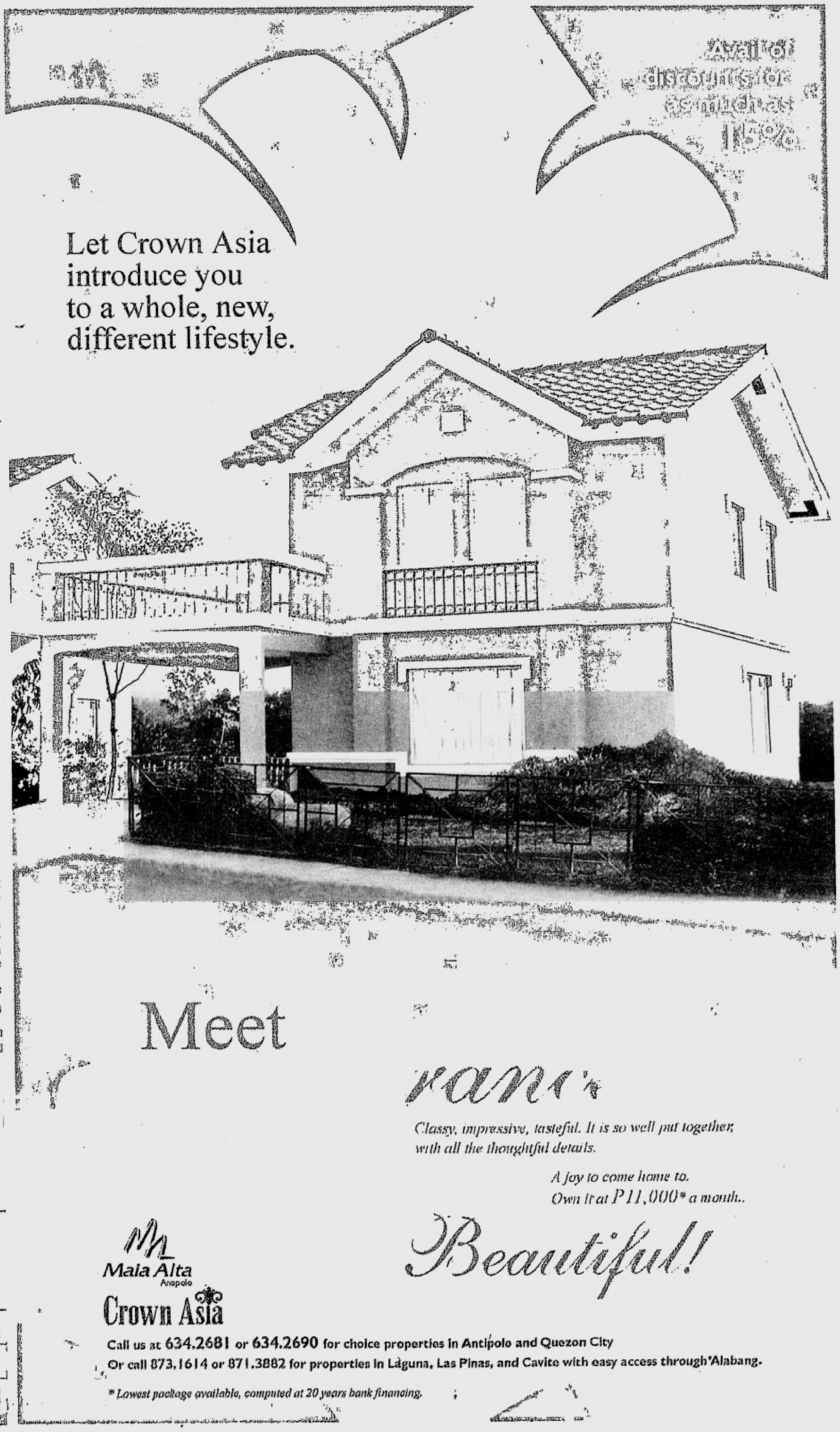
There can be several cuts before a branch is

IF YOU/ H4



REMOVE a large branch that has a sharp branch attachment with cuts shown as A and B, and angle third cut upward as shown in C

this WEEK @ SM SUPERMALLS
SULTANA presents
Tabing ilog mall tour
October 25
SM MEGAMALL ORTIGAS
4pm
Atrium, Mega A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Cowboy Grill

LAS PIÑAS ☎ 801.7644	THINKERS/JOGRAD PRYZM	I-AXE EVERY MONDAY OF OCT. NO ENTRANCE FEE
MABINI ☎ 525.1474	POWER SURGE PHRYGIAN/HUDYAT	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 6AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
MALATE ☎ 521.8143	MUSIC CIRCUIT MEN OPPOSE	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757	BLAKDYAK BEAT BOX/HEADWORKZ	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM [illegible]
BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268	HEARTBEAT/KOOLJACKS EMMANUELLE	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE

TIA MARIA'S

JUPITER ☎ 890.4735	SYMPOSIUM FIRST SIGHT	OCT.29-SABOR LATINO
REMEDIOS ☎ 522.0429	VERSE 2 P R P	OCT.28-SABOR LATINO
TOMAS MORATO ☎ 371.1473	RHYTHM ACE ENIGMA	NO ENTRANCE FEE
COCO CABANA MAKATI	ACOUSTIC NITES W/ LUCID AT 9 PM	8465 KALAYAAN AVE. (NEAR ROCKWELL) MAKATI 0927-3048991 ☎ 896.8763
Partyplace SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA ☎ (045)961.3360	INFINITY	NOV.14-NYOY VOLANTE NOV.21-SARAH GERONIMO
FOREST	SOLD OUT LIVE-WIRE T.M. KALAW COR. PARADE ST. LUNETA PARK, MANILA	OCT. 30-[illegible] A HALLOWEEN PRESENTATION [illegible] ☎ 400-7435/525-0514

OCTOBER 24 FRIDAY

TLC Total Lower C

NEW SEÑORITO Mixed Vegetables 200 g
TLC PRICE P19.00/pk. Reg. Price 21.00

SILVER SWAN Soy Sauce 1 Liter
TLC PRICE P19.00 ea. Reg. Price 20.75

PISTA Instant Pansit Ulam • Chicken Hamonado • Adobong Manok 60 g
TLC PRICE P4.65 ea. Reg. Price 5.00

PUREFOODS Chick 'N Tasty Hotdog 500 g.
TLC PRICE P45.50/pk. Reg. Price 46.50

PIETRO CORICELLI Olive Oil • Plain 250 mL.
TLC PRICE P81.50 ea. Reg. Price 85.50

IDEAL Spaghetti 1 kg.
TLC PRICE P41.50/pk. *Not available in SM Lucena

SWIFT Sweet 'N Juicy Hotdog • Regular 1 kg.
TLC PRICE P103.00/pk. Reg. Price 105.00

HUNT'S Spaghetti Sauce • On Selected Flavors 75 g
TLC PRICE P52.50 ea. Reg. Price 57.50

SUPER Q Golden Bihon 500 g
TLC PRICE P23.50/pk. Reg. Price 26.50 *Not available in SM Lucena

PUREFOODS Eazee Links Sisig 100 g
TLC PRICE P17.00 ea. Reg. Price 18.00

555 Sardines • In Tomato Sauce • In Tomato Sauce W/ Chili 155 g/5s
TLC PRICE P37.50/pk.

STAR Margarine • Classic 250 g.
TLC PRICE P26.50 ea. Reg. Price 27.50

MONTEREY Pork Chop
TLC PRICE P115.00/kg. Reg. Price 125.00

MONTEREY Pork Pata Front
TLC PRICE P87.00/kg.

MONTEREY Pork Baby Back Ribs
TLC PRICE P150.00/kg. Reg. Price 159.00

MONTEREY Beef Cubes
TLC PRICE P148.00/kg. Reg. Price 165.00

FRESH CHOICE Beef Breakfast Steak
TLC PRICE P185.00/kg. Reg. Price 195.00

FRESH CHOICE Beef Ground Round
TLC PRICE P120.00/kg. Reg. Price 126.00

FRESH CHOICE Pork Belly
TLC PRICE P115.00/kg.

Salmon Belly
TLC PRICE P145.00/kg.

FRESH PICK IDEA

MONTEREY ORANGE C

Ingredients:

4 pcs.	MONTEREY Pork Chops
1/3 cup	Butter, clarified
	salt & pepper
1/2 cup	chicken stock
1/3 cup	orange marmalade
1/3 cup	fresh orange juice
	grated zest of one orange

CDO Hamburger Patties 225 g
TLC PRICE P29.50/pk. Reg. Price 31.00

CENTURY Tuna • On Selected Flavors 184 g
TLC PRICE P21.75 ea. Reg. Price 22.75

NUTRI-LICIOUS Sandwich Spread 470 mL.
TLC PRICE P49.50 ea. Reg. Price 53.75

UCARE Powdered Filled Milk 175 g
TLC PRICE P29.00 ea. Reg. Price 29.75 *Not available in SM Lucena

ANLENE Gold UHT Milk 1 Liter
TLC PRICE P49.50 ea. Reg. Price 52.50

MONTEREY Sisig 500 g.
TLC PRICE P85.50/pk. Reg. Price 90.00

SWIFT Corned Beef 175 g
TLC PRICE P22.00 ea. Reg. Price 22.50

KRAFT Cheez Whiz • Pimiento 250 g
TLC PRICE P44.25 ea. Reg. Price 44.75

UCARE 1-2-3 Growing Up Milk 900 g
TLC PRICE P182.50 Reg. Price 187.50

FARM Low-Lactose Milk Powder 180 g
TLC PRICE P44.50 ea. Reg. Price 47.75

NESTLÉ Supreme Ice Cream • Double Dutch • Cookies & Cream 1.9 Liters
TLC PRICE P175.00 ea. Reg. Price 190.00

ARGENTINA Meat Loaf 170 g
TLC PRICE P11.75 ea.

GARDENIA Loaf • California Raisin • Chocolate Chip 400 g.
TLC PRICE P32.50/pk. Reg. Price 33.50

PROMIL KID Growing Up Milk 1.6 kg
TLC PRICE P649.75 ea.

ALASKA Fresh UHT Milk 1 Liter
TLC PRICE P42.50 ea. Reg. Price 44.50

PUREHEALTH Canola Oil 2 Liters
TLC PRICE P150.00 Reg. Price 160.50

PUREFOODS Vienna Sausage 140 g.
TLC PRICE P22.75 ea. Reg. Price 23.60

ENERGEN Instant Cereal Drink • Choco 30 g/5's
TLC PRICE P23.75/pk. Reg. Price 24.50

DUMEX 3+ Growing Up Milk • Chocolate 1.6 kg.
TLC PRICE P549.50 Reg. Price 569.50

BLUE COW Condensada 300 mL.
TLC PRICE P23.50 ea. Reg. Price 24.95

BAGUIO Vegetable Oil • Plastic • Tin 1 gal.
TLC PRICE P153.00 Reg. Price 155.00

HUNT'S Pork & Beans 165 g
TLC PRICE P11.75 ea. Reg. Price 11.95

NESCAFÉ Frothé • Mocha 18 g/6's
TLC PRICE P42.25/pk.

ENERVON Prime Powdered Milk 1 kg
TLC PRICE P448.50 ea. Reg. Price 449.75

SELECTA MOO Milk Drink • On Selected Fla 250 mL.
TLC PRICE P12.25 ea. Reg. Price 12.95

LASAP Sinigang Tamarind Mix 40 g.
TLC PRICE P9.00 ea. Reg. Price 9.50

FLORENCE Nata De Coco 340 g.
TLC PRICE P21.00 ea. Reg. Price 24.75

KELLOGG'S Frosties Corn Flakes 175 g
TLC PRICE P64.75 ea. Reg. Price 71.60

NIDO 1+ Fortified Growing Up Milk 900 g
TLC PRICE P251.50/pk.

LA PACITA Snax Crackers 180 g
TLC PRICE P17.50/pk. Reg. Price 18.75

MAGGI Savor • Calamansi 130 mL.
TLC PRICE P20.80/pk.

KRAFT Real Mayonnaise • Regular 225 mL.
TLC PRICE P41.25 ea. Reg. Price 43.25

MILO Tonic Food Drink • Refill 600 g.
TLC PRICE P79.50 ea. Reg. Price 81.50

ANMUM Milk Powder • Chocolate 1 kg
TLC PRICE P499.50 Reg. Price 519.50

BLUSKIES Crackers • Plain, 200 g. • Spring Onion, 1
TLC PRICE P13.50/pk. Reg. Price 14.75

LEE KUM KEE Panda Oyster Sauce 510 g. (18 oz.)
TLC PRICE P83.60 ea. Reg. Price 84.75

HO-MI Instant Mami • Chicken & Garlic • Beef Brisket • Beef Wanton 55 g
TLC PRICE P4.40 ea. Reg. Price 4.60

MILUPA Baby Meals • Cereal W/ Honey • Oat Cereal W/ Apple 150 g.
TLC PRICE P77.60 ea. Reg. Price 82.50

ANLENE Hi-Calcium Non Fat Milk 1 kg
TLC PRICE P299.60 Reg. Price 309.50

HAPI HOUSE Hapi Hapi Assorted Biscuits 2.6 kg.
TLC PRICE P126.50 pk. Reg. Price 131.50

OFFER GOOD: OCT. 24 TO NOV. 13, 2003

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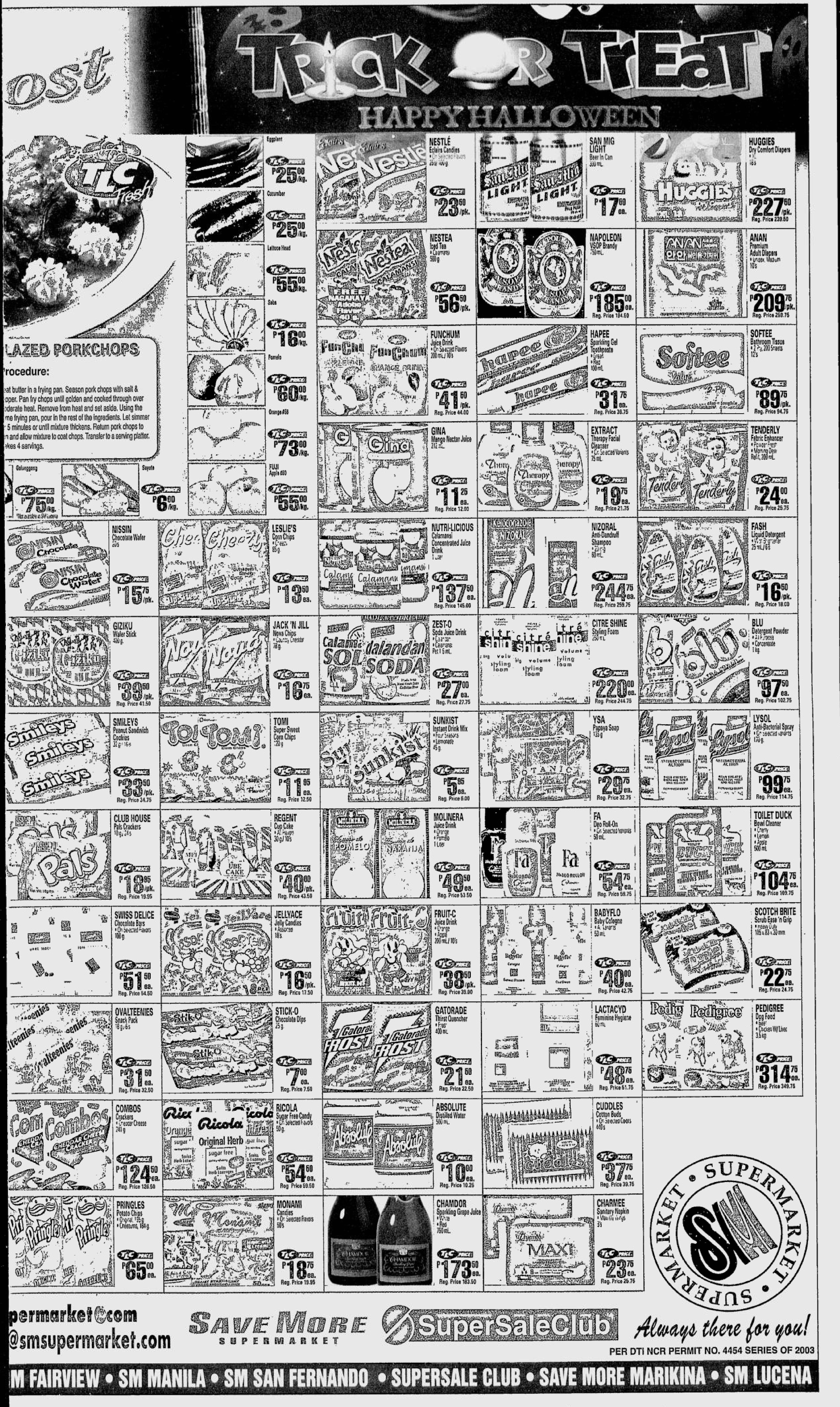

LAZED PORKCHOPS

rocedure:

eat butter in a frying pan. Season pork chops with salt & opper. Pan fry chops until golden and cooked through over oderate heat. Remove from heat and set aside. Using the me frying pan, pour in the rest of the ingredients. Let simmer r 5 minutes or until mixture thickens. Return pork chops to n and allow mixture to coat chops. Transfer to a serving platter. akes 4 servings.

Product	Details	TLC Price	Reg. Price
Eggplant		P25.00/kg.	
Cucumber		P25.00/kg.	
Lettuce Head		P55.00/kg.	
Saba		P16.00/kg.	
Pomelo		P60.00/kg.	
Orange #56		P73.00/kg.	
FUJI	Apple #80	P55.00/kg.	
Galunggong	*Not available in SM Lucena	P75.00/kg.	
Sayote		P6.00/kg.	
NESTLÉ	Eclairs Candies • On Selected Flavors 25's/100 g	P23.60/pk.	
SAN MIG LIGHT	Beer In Can 330 mL	P17.60 ea.	
HUGGIES	Dry Comfort Diapers • XL 18's	P227.50/pk.	239.50
NESTEA	Iced Tea • Calamansi 500 g	P56.50/pk.	
NAPOLEON	VSOP Brandy 750 mL	P185.00 ea.	194.50
ANAN	Premium Adult Diapers • Unisex, Medium 10's	P209.75/pk.	250.75
FUNCHUM	Juice Drink • On Selected Flavors 200 mL / 10's	P41.60/pk.	44.00
HAPEE	Sparkling Gel Toothpaste • Green • Red 100 mL	P31.75 ea.	36.75
SOFTEE	Bathroom Tissue • 2 Ply, 200 Sheets 12's	P89.75/pk.	94.75
GINA	Mango Nectar Juice 212 mL	P11.25 ea.	12.00
EXTRACT	Therapy Facial Cleanser • On Selected Variants 75 mL	P19.75 ea.	21.75
TENDERLY	Fabric Enhancer • Powder Fresh • Morning Dew Refill, 200 mL	P24.00 ea.	25.75
NISSIN	Chocolate Wafer 20's	P15.75/pk.	
LESLIE'S	Corn Chips • Cheezy 85 g	P13.50 ea.	
NUTRI-LICIOUS	Calamansi Concentrated Juice Drink 1 Liter	P137.50 ea.	145.00
NIZORAL	Anti-Dandruff Shampoo • [illegible] 60 mL	P244.75 ea.	259.75
FASH	Liquid Detergent • With Brightener 25 mL / 6's	P16.50/pk.	18.00
GIZIKU	Wafer Stick 400 g	P39.50/pk.	41.50
JACK 'N JILL	Nova Chips • Country Cheddar 78 g	P16.75 ea.	
ZEST-O	Soda Juice Drink • [illegible] • Calamansi Pet 1.5 mL	P27.00 ea.	27.75
CITRE SHINE	Styling Foam 250 mL	P220.00 ea.	244.75
BLU	Detergent Powder • All Purpose • Concentrate 1 kg	P97.50 ea.	102.75
SMILEYS	Peanut Sandwich Cookies 32 g/16's	P33.50/pk.	34.75
TOMI	Super Sweet Corn Chips 120 g	P11.95 ea.	12.50
SUNKIST	Instant Drink Mix • Four Seasons • Lemonade 45 g	P5.95 ea.	6.00
YSA	Papaya Soap 135 g	P29.75 ea.	32.75
LYSOL	Anti-Bacterial Spray • On Selected Variants 170 g	P99.75 ea.	114.75
CLUB HOUSE	Pals Crackers 10 g/24's	P18.95/pk.	19.95
REGENT	Cup Cake • All Flavors 30 g/10's	P40.00/pk.	43.50
MOLINERA	Juice Drink • Orange • Pomelo 1 Liter	P49.50 ea.	53.50
FA	Deo Roll-On • On Selected Variants 50 mL	P54.75 ea.	59.75
TOILET DUCK	Bowl Cleaner • Cherry • Lemon • Apple 500 mL	P104.75 ea.	109.75
SWISS DELICE	Chocolate Bars • On Selected Flavors 100 g	P51.50 ea.	54.50
JELLYACE	Jelly Candies • Assorted 18's	P16.50/pk.	17.50
FRUIT-C	Juice Drink • Orange • Apple 200 mL / 10's	P38.50/pk.	39.00
BABYFLO	Baby Cologne • All Variants 53 mL	P40.00 ea.	42.75
SCOTCH BRITE	Scrub Ease 'n Grip • Heavy Duty 105 x 83 x 30 mm	P22.75 ea.	24.75
OVALTEENIES	Snack Pack 18 g/6's	P31.50 ea.	32.50
STICK-O	Chocolate Dips 25 g	P7.00 ea.	7.50
GATORADE	Thirst Quencher • Frost 400 mL	P21.50 ea.	22.50
LACTACYD	Feminine Hygiene 60 mL	P48.75 ea.	51.75
PEDIGREE	Dog Food • Beef • Chicken W/ Liver 3.5 kg	P314.75 ea.	349.75
COMBOS	Crackers • Cheddar Cheese 241 g	P124.50 ea.	126.50
RICOLA	Sugar Free Candy • On Selected Flavors 50 g	P54.60 ea.	59.50
ABSOLUTE	Distilled Water 500 mL	P10.00 ea.	10.25
CUDDLES	Cotton Buds • On Selected Colors 400's	P37.75 ea.	39.75
PRINGLES	Potato Chips • Original, 195 g • Cheezums, 184 g	P65.00 ea.	
MONAMI	Candies • On Selected Flavors 50's	P18.75 ea.	19.95
CHAMDOR	Sparkling Grape Juice • White • Red 750 mL	P173.50 ea.	183.50
CHARMEE	Sanitary Napkin • Maxi W/ Wings 8's	P23.75 ea.	26.75

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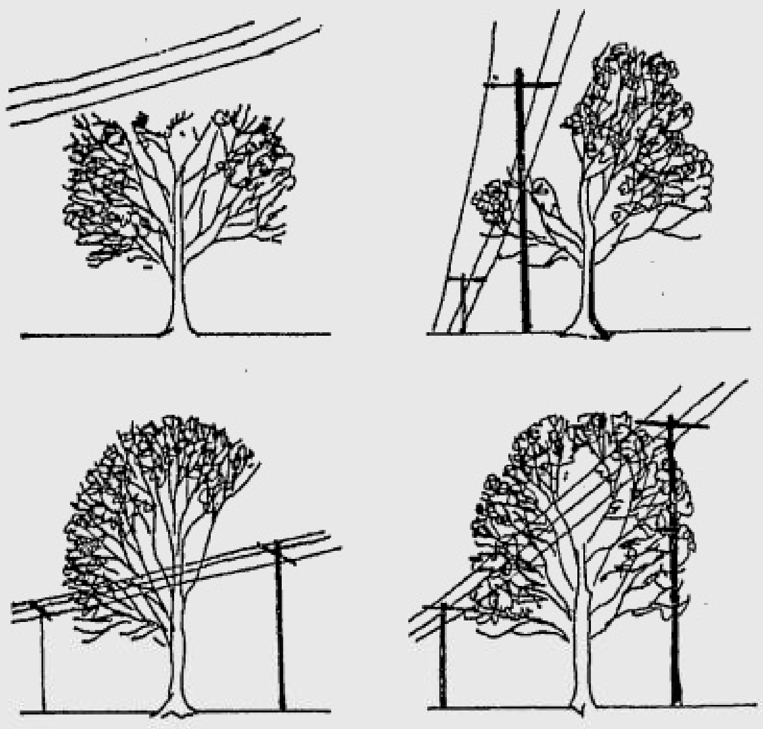
If you must cut trees, do it right



THINNING of trees that interfere with electric wires

From page H1

lopped off. This is to prevent the branch from splitting back and the bark from tearing. There are times when it is necessary to prune a large branch with a V-shaped crotch and to angle the last cut upward to where the branch and trunk join.

The explanations we give here are limited to branch-cutting (there are many other aspects of tree maintenance we've left out) just to emphasize that cutting trees, even only branches, cannot be done the old way.

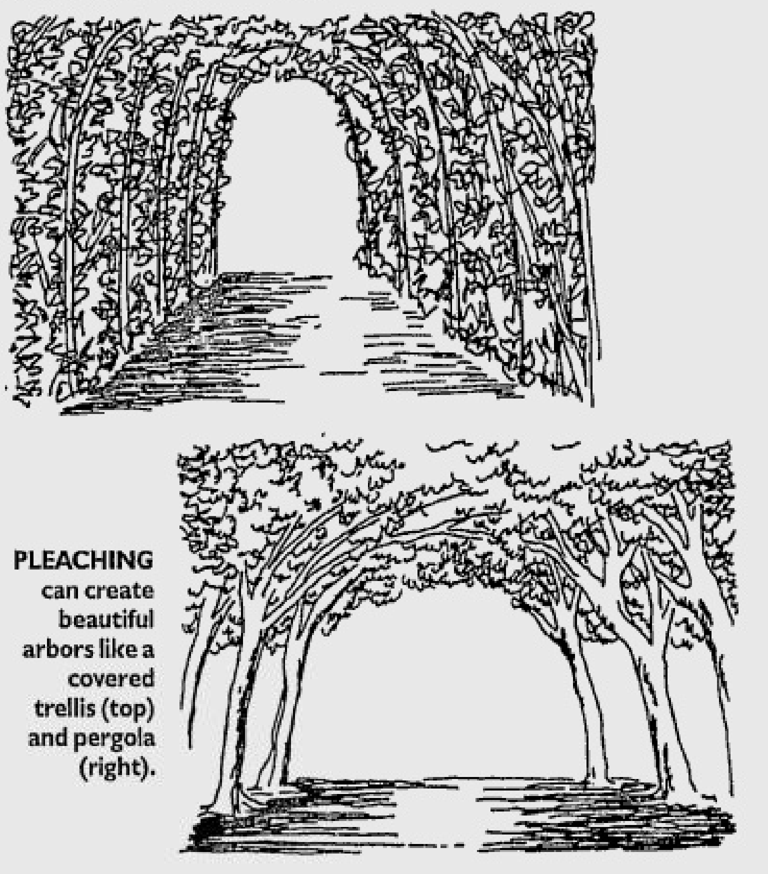
There is a science—even art—to it, if the tree is to benefit from the healing process provided by thinning and heading back.

In regard to this, the how-to illustrations in the book make valuable additions to the book.

The primer was published in 1996 and put together by a team of professionals and experts to serve as a guide for government officials, community leaders and all those engaged in the greening and beautification of their communities (especially urban areas).

While it is out of print, those interested in the book's information may contact Alvarez himself at 5280776.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com



PLEACHING can create beautiful arbors like a covered trellis (top) and pergola (right).

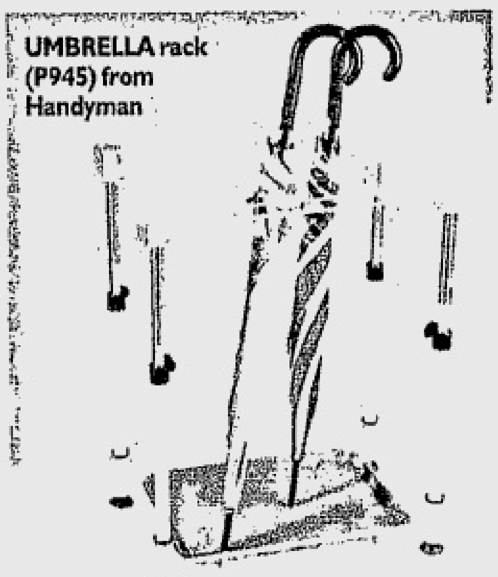
Home tools on sale

HANDYMAN and Handyman Do it Best are holding an "Organize and Optimize" Sale until Oct. 30.

Avail of a wide array of open, closed, convenient and remote storages, shoe racks with umbrella closet, 25-drawer organizers, corner glass shelves, dish cabinets, lap trays, trunk organizers and multi-purpose wall organizers, among others.

A "Basic Use of Power Tools" home improvement demonstration will also be held on Oct. 25, 11 a.m. at the activity center of Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa.

Visit Handyman and Handyman Do It Best stores at Robinsons malls, Waltermart stores, and other leading shopping centers nationwide. Soon to open are Handyman Do it Best stores in Robinsons Place Lipa and JY Square Discovery Mall Cebu.



UMBRELLA rack (P945) from Handyman

Showcase of home essentials

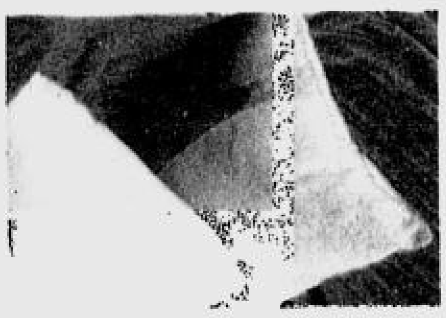
ROBINSONS Department Store (RDS) makes living light and easy with its Home Fair, ongoing in all branches including the newly opened Lipa store, until Oct. 31.

You'll find a wide assortment of home products—from staples like linens, pillows and chinaware, to beautiful and functional bed, bath and kitchen accessories. Simple yet tasteful best describes the home essentials being showcased at Home Fair.

These are just some of the merchandise that will take your fancy: Throw pillows in various designs and colors (from vivid hues to earth tones); kitchen gadgets and implements such as placemats in plain, plaid or flowery styles; cups and saucers in attractive colors; fuzzy, comfortable comforters; soft and fluffy towels; cuddly pillows; wooden hampers; scented candles; useful pots and pans and practical home organizers, among others.

And they are light on the pocket, too, with up to 50-percent discount on selected items. A free mug will also be given to customers for every purchase worth P500.

Enjoy shopping at RDS for all your home needs. You might even win one of the three appliance showcases up for grabs for every P300 worth of purchase from the home section.



THROW pillow with accent leaf buttons, beige throw pillow and maroon throw blanket/sofa

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Silver Casing
Cable Ready
KC-200M8
P5,899

Clothes Rack
Single bar / Adjustable Height
P299

DORSBIEN Fleece Blanket
Rotary Print, 60 x 85
P199

KOLIN Rice Cooker
1.8 Liters, w/ Steamer
KRC-108
P489

USA Fashion Expanded Pillow
Single/ Adjustable, Fiber Fill
Washable 18 x 28, 700G
P99

FUNDADOR
Brandy 36%
1 Lt.
P378
FREE
175g Argentina Corned Beef

MAGNOLIA
Frozen Chicken
P79
AVAILABLE ONLY IN LUZON

RANGER
Long Grain Rice
25 Kg.
P349
AVAILABLE ONLY IN LUZON

JACK N' JILL
Nova Country Cheddar, Piattos Cheese, Pizza, Sour Cream & Onion 40G x 20
P155
FREE
200 ml x 2 Zest-O Orange Juice

China Ya Pears
6 pcs.
P18

4 EASY STEPS TO BE A MEMBER!

1. Visit any of the Makro stores nationwide.
2. Proceed to the registration desk and present both original and photocopy of your Mayor's permit, O.R. of the mayor's permit and any valid I.D. with picture.
3. Fill up an application form.
4. Once your application is approved, you can use your temporary tradecard to shop at any Makro store.

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